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– Multiversity Comics
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DOCTOR DOOM
POTTERSVILLE
MARVEL

Doctor Doom
Pottersville

Born to a poor nomad and an ill-fated witch, Victor Von Doom used his talent for combining sorcery and technology to take over the European country of Latveria, making him one of the most powerful people on the planet. Over the years, Doom has wielded his power for great good and great evil, leaving the people of Earth with one question to ponder and fear: What will Doctor Doom do next?

Doctor Doom

Pottersville

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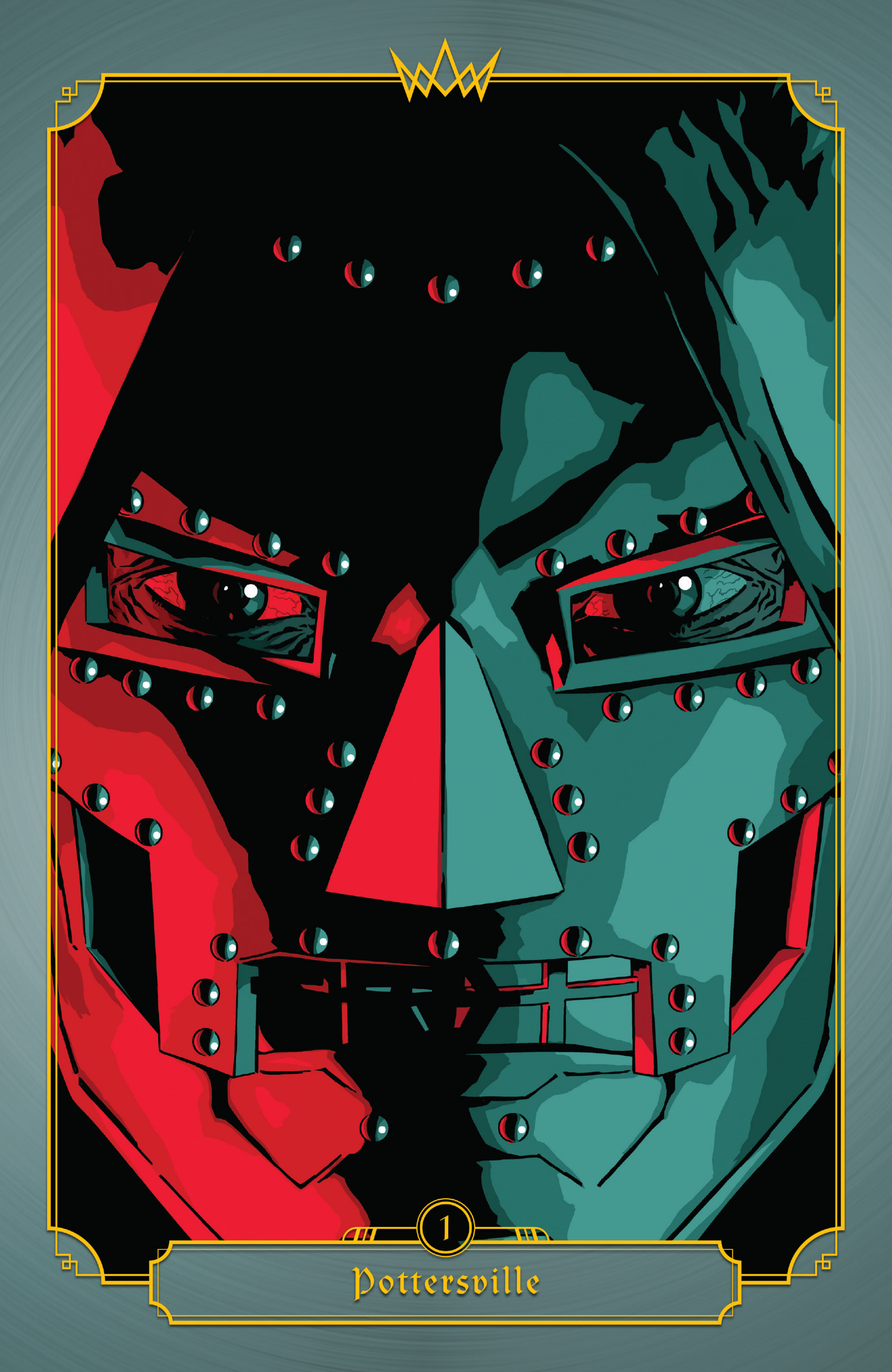


1

Pottersville

ANTLION CONTROL CENTER.

"...THE STATION WILL REMOVE CO_2 EMISSIONS FROM EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, BUT AT WHAT *RATE?*"

"THEY'RE PROJECTING A ***35% REDUCTION*** IN THE FIRST YEAR."

"AND MUCH OF THAT WILL BE CONVERTED INTO ***5N PURITY*** HYDROGEN FUEL."

"BUT STILL, THE WASTE GENERATED WILL BE ***THIRTY TIMES*** AS TOXIC AS NUCLEAR RUNOFF."

"THAT'S WHAT THE ANTLION IS FOR."

"A STABLE, PERFECTLY CONTROLLED ***BLACK HOLE WASTE DEPOSITORY*** ON THE MOON."

WE'RE REALLY DOING IT--WE'RE CREATING A BLACK HOLE ON THE MOON.

IN JUST UNDER THREE HOURS, YES.

PARTICLE COLLISION-- 2:48:57

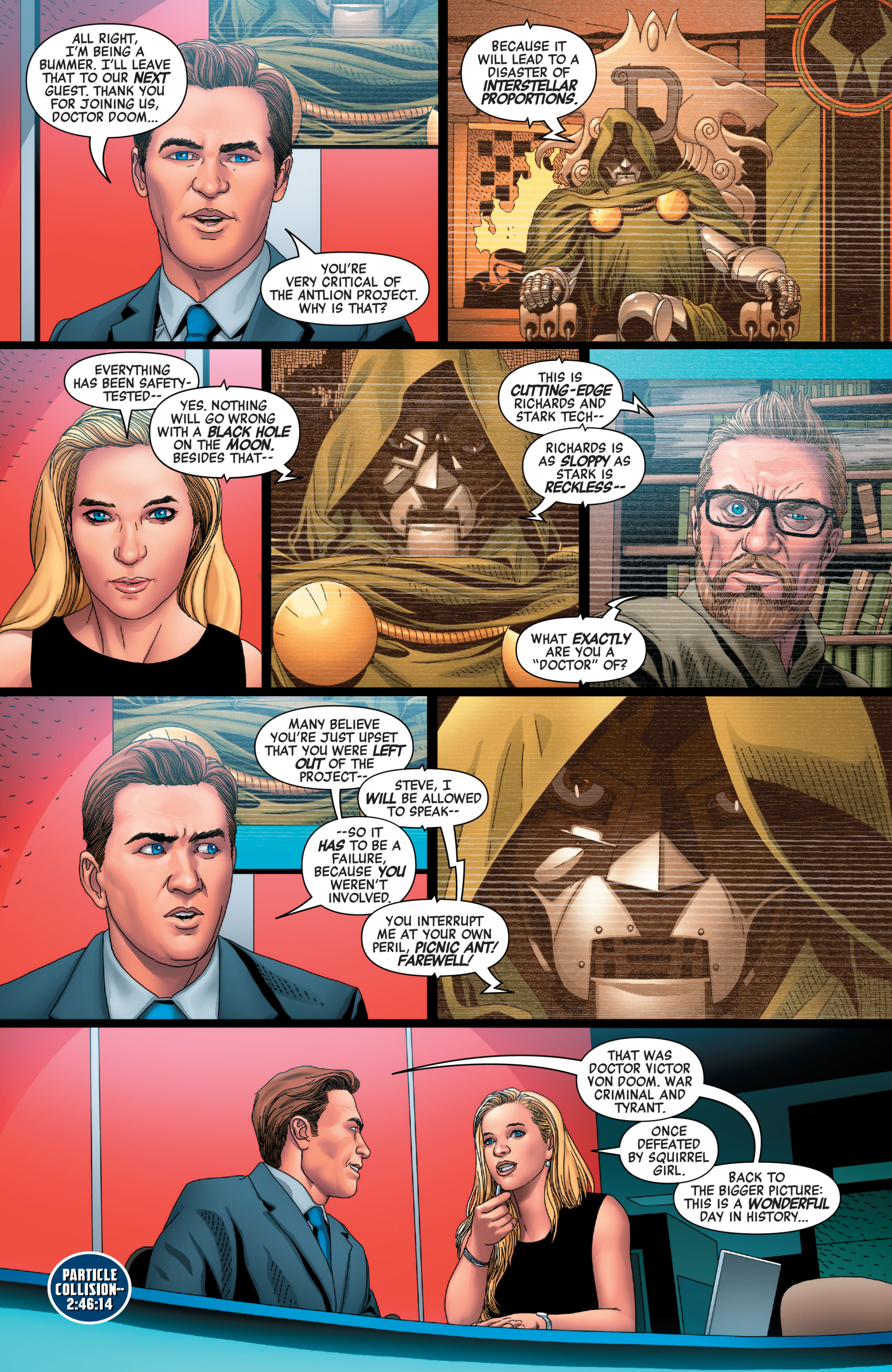
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF... ***STARLOG MAGAZINE.*** I'M A GEEK--WHAT CAN I SAY?

SO WE'VE DONE IT, DR. STANDRUP-- WE'VE ***SOLVED*** CLIMATE CHANGE?

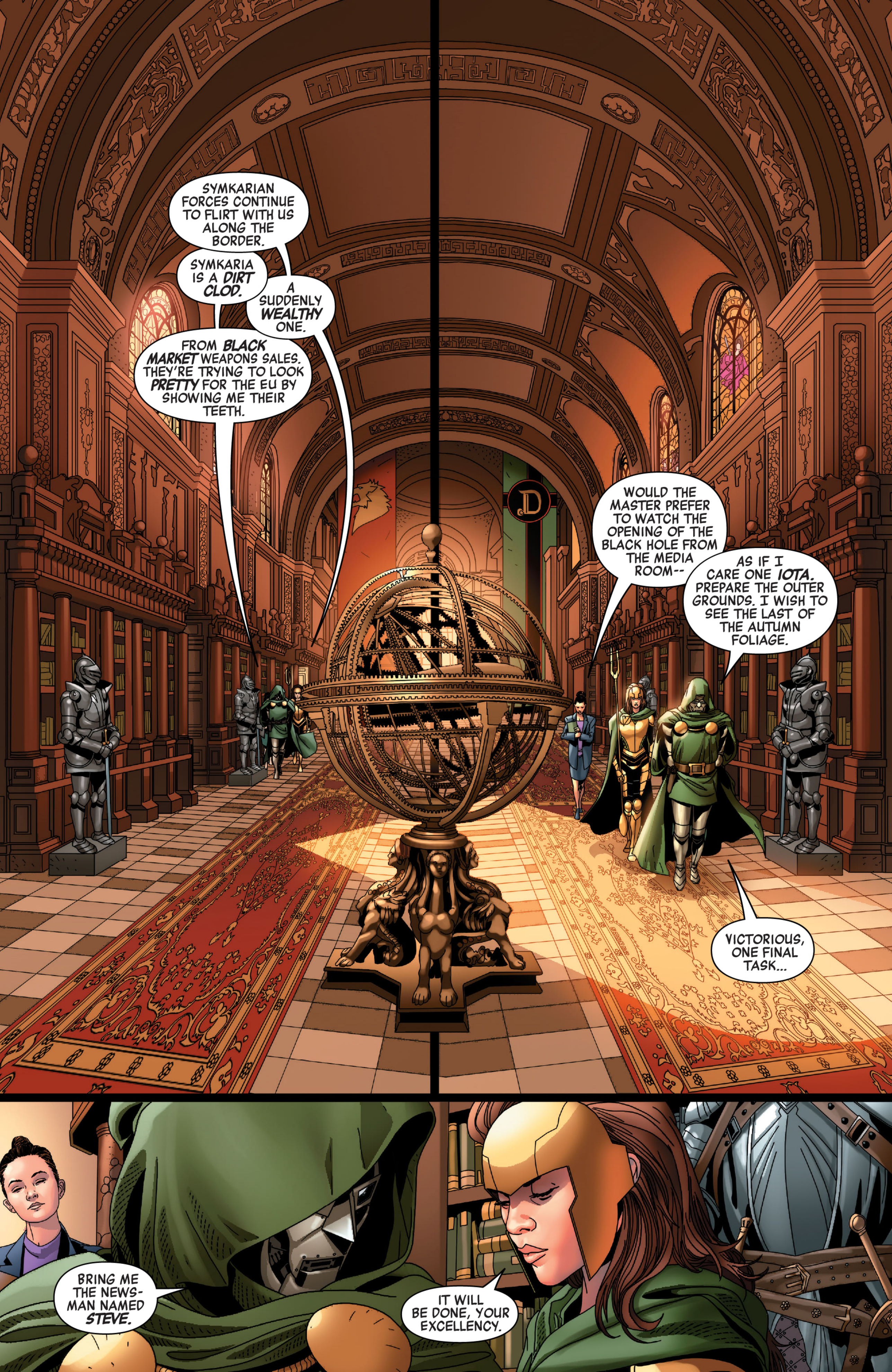
I AVOID DEFINITE ANSWERS, BUT WE SHOULD SEE A DROP IN GLOBAL TEMPERATURE VERY SOON.

STILL, WE CAN'T JUST ***REFREEZE*** THE GLACIERS.

TRUE.


ALL RIGHT, I'M BEING A BUMMER. I'LL LEAVE THAT TO OUR NEXT GUEST. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US, DOCTOR DOOM...
YOU'RE VERY CRITICAL OF THE ANTLION PROJECT. WHY IS THAT?
BECAUSE IT WILL LEAD TO A DISASTER OF INTERSTELLAR PROPORTIONS.
EVERYTHING HAS BEEN SAFETY-TESTED--
YES. NOTHING WILL GO WRONG WITH A BLACK HOLE ON THE MOON. BESIDES THAT--
THIS IS CUTTING-EDGE RICHARDS AND STARK TECH--
RICHARDS IS AS SLOPPY AS STARK IS RECKLESS--
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU A "DOCTOR" OF?
MANY BELIEVE YOU'RE JUST UPSET THAT YOU WERE LEFT OUT OF THE PROJECT--
STEVE, I WILL BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK--
--SO IT HAS TO BE A FAILURE, BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T INVOLVED.
YOU INTERRUPT ME AT YOUR OWN PERIL, PICNIC ANT! FAREWELL!
THAT WAS DOCTOR VICTOR VON DOOM. WAR CRIMINAL AND TYRANT.
ONCE DEFEATED BY SQUIRREL GIRL.
BACK TO THE BIGGER PICTURE: THIS IS A WONDERFUL DAY IN HISTORY...
PARTICLE COLLISION-- 2:46:14

LATVERIA.
MASTER, I'LL REMOVE YOUR LAV MIC--
BOWFTCHSH


SYMKARIAN FORCES CONTINUE TO FLIRT WITH US ALONG THE BORDER.
SYMKARIA IS A DIRT CLOD.
A SUDDENLY WEALTHY ONE.
FROM BLACK MARKET WEAPONS SALES. THEY'RE TRYING TO LOOK PRETTY FOR THE EU BY SHOWING ME THEIR TEETH.
WOULD THE MASTER PREFER TO WATCH THE OPENING OF THE BLACK HOLE FROM THE MEDIA ROOM--
AS IF I CARE ONE IOTA. PREPARE THE OUTER GROUNDS. I WISH TO SEE THE LAST OF THE AUTUMN FOLIAGE.
VICTORIOUS, ONE FINAL TASK...
BRING ME THE NEWS-MAN NAMED STEVE.
IT WILL BE DONE, YOUR EXCELLENCY.

PETRA, HOW IS YOUR FATHER?

LARIN CARES FOR HIM AT HIS BEDSIDE. BUT... HE'S AS STUBBORN AS EVER.
BORIS IS A STRONG MAN. HE'LL BEAT THE CANCER. I'M SURE OF IT.
...YES, OUR MASTER. THANK YOU.
WOULD YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE BEFORE I RETIRE, LORD?
NO.
BUT WAIT. BEFORE YOU GO.
YOU MUST WATCH THIS.
A BLACK HOLE WAS JUST BORN.
DO YOU THINK IT WILL SAVE THE WORLD?
IT WILL BE A--DISASTER OF INTERSTELLAR PROPORTIONS.
YOU HAVE CHILDREN?
TWO GIRLS, ONE BOY.
FOR THEIR SAKE...
...I HOPE YOU'RE WRONG.

Truthfully, my foresight weakens
with each passing year, for the
world is

orld is
BZZZ

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE GOSS SECTOR OF REMOTE QUADRANT ZULU...
...WHY DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING?
MY GUESS IS THAT YOU'VE TRAVELED THROUGH TIME SO OFTEN THAT YOU'VE DAMAGED YOUR CHROMOSOMES.
CASSIOPEIA'S STARS HAVEN'T ARTIFICIALLY DETONATED, SO THIS ISN'T LATER THAN MID-21ST CENTURY.
CLOSE ENOUGH.
THEY OPENED A BLACK HOLE ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON TODAY.
THE ANTLION...
YOU REMEMBER.
VAGUELY. SUPPOSED TO SAVE THE WORLD.
DID IT?
IT DEPENDS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TIMELINE I'M IN.
KANG, WHY AM I TETHERED TO YOU?
WE MAY BE DISTANTLY RELATED...QUANTUM ENTANGLEMENT...?
I DON'T DRINK WITH MY ADVERSARIES.
YOU JUST SAID WE MAY BE RELATED.
I SAID "DISTANTLY."
KZZT
FOR EVERY GOOD DEED, TEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN, KANG.
BEST AVOID GOOD DEEDS, THEN.
TELL THAT TO THE ANTLION PROJECT.

THERE WAS AN ARTIST WHO PAINTED WITH EVERY COLOR IN HIS PALETTE. BUT THERE WAS ONE COLOR OF WHICH HE WAS PARTICULARLY FOND.
THEN HE RAN OUT OF IT. HE COULDN'T FIND IT AGAIN.
I'M FAMILIAR WITH THIS PROVERB. THE COLOR IS HAPPINESS, WHICH ULTIMATELY LEADS TO OUR DESTRUCTION.
HE GREW OLD SEARCHING FOR IT. SOON HE COULD NO LONGER LIFT A BRUSH. HE NEVER PAINTED AGAIN.
HAPPINESS ISN'T THE PROBLEM-- IT'S OUR ENDLESS PURSUIT OF IT.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? SO MELANCHOLY, SO--
BUZZEOW
UNTIL NEXT TIME, THEN.

SHE WAS THE PRETTIEST GAL I'VE SEEN IN MY LIFE...♫

IN MY LIFE...♫

IN MY LIFE...♫

AND I WISHED TO THE LORD SHE'D BE MY WIFE...♫

THEN WE WOULD PART NO MORE...♫

BUFFALO GALS, WON'T YOU COME OUT TONIGHT...♫

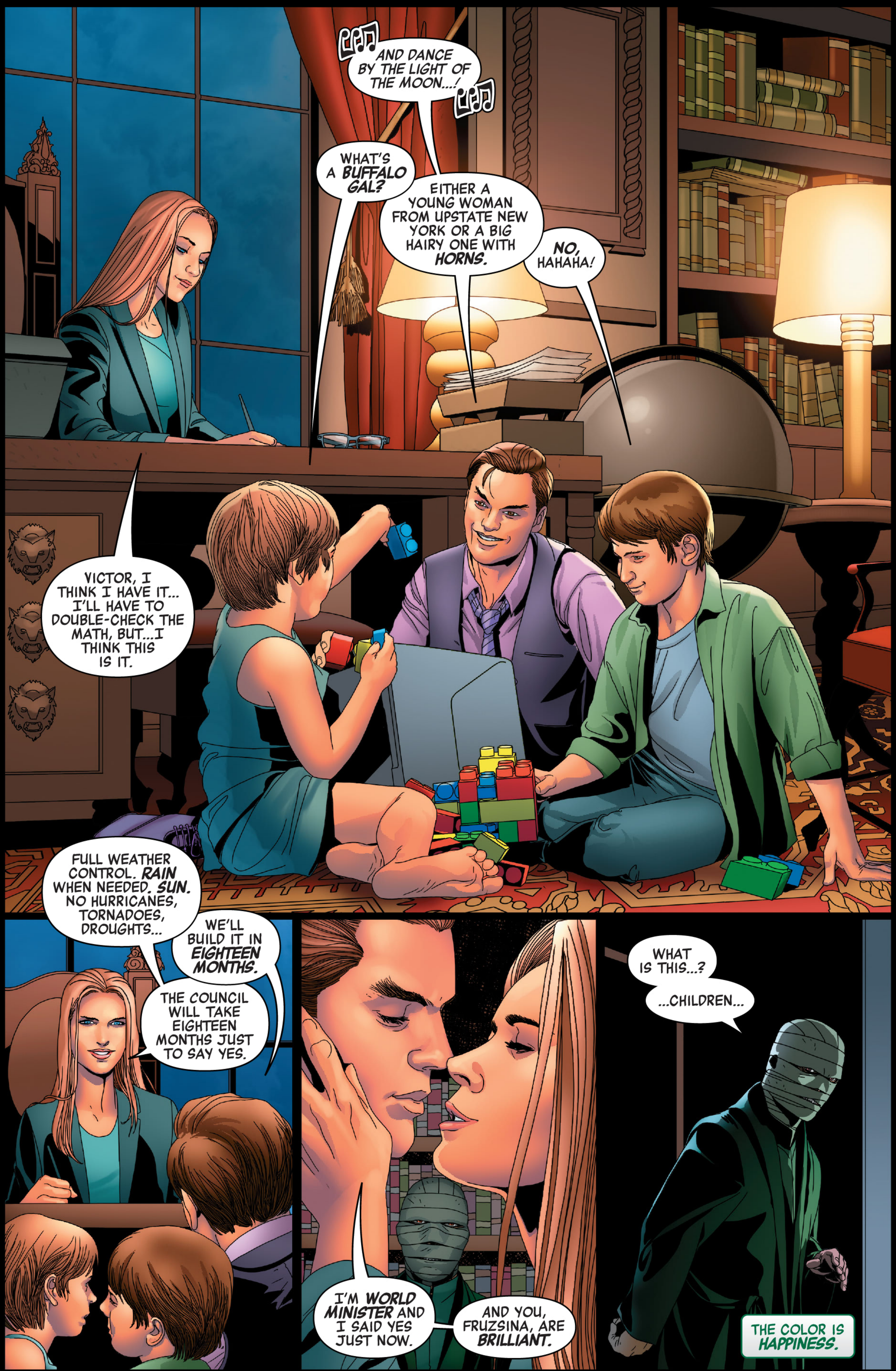
COME OUT TONIGHT...♫

COME OUT TONIGHT...♫

BUFFALO GALS, WON'T YOU COME OUT TONIGHT...♫

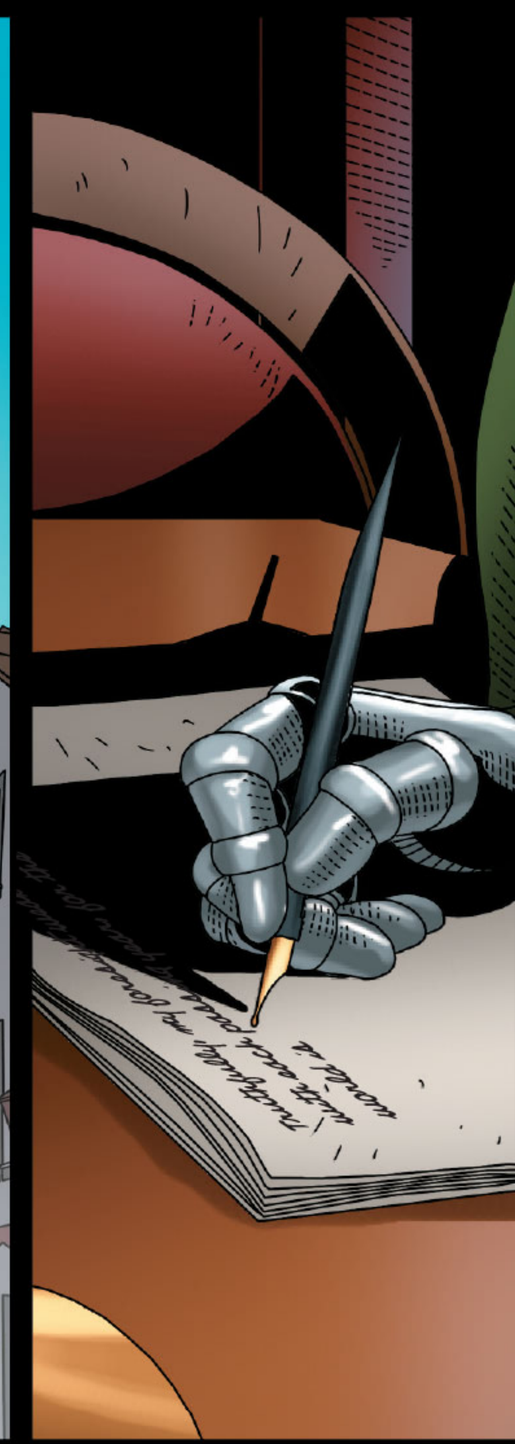
COME OUT TONIGHT...♫

COME OUT TONIGHT...♫


AND DANCE BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON...!
WHAT'S A BUFFALO GAL?
EITHER A YOUNG WOMAN FROM UPSTATE NEW YORK OR A BIG HAIRY ONE WITH HORNS.
NO, HAHAHA!
VICTOR, I THINK I HAVE IT... I'LL HAVE TO DOUBLE-CHECK THE MATH, BUT...I THINK THIS IS IT.
FULL WEATHER CONTROL. RAIN WHEN NEEDED. SUN. NO HURRICANES, TORNADOES, DROUGHTS...
WE'LL BUILD IT IN EIGHTEEN MONTHS.
THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE EIGHTEEN MONTHS JUST TO SAY YES.
I'M WORLD MINISTER AND I SAID YES JUST NOW.
AND YOU, FRUZSINA, ARE BRILLIANT.
WHAT IS THIS...?
...CHILDREN...
THE COLOR IS HAPPINESS.

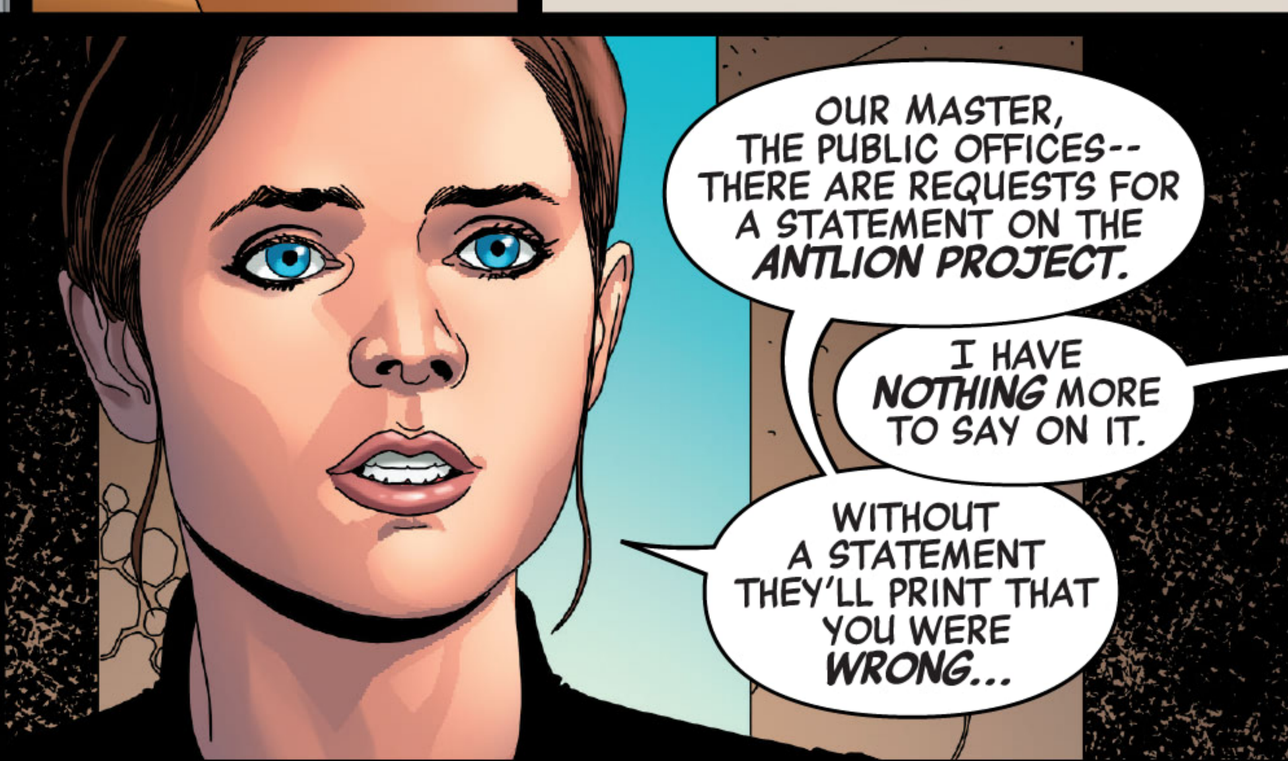
♪ AAAANNND DAAAANNCE BYYY THE LIIIGHT OF THE MOOOOON. ♫

WEEKS LATER.



weakene
n passing yea
for the world
a lost

VICTORIOUS REPORTS THAT THE SYMKARIAN BORDER IS SIMMERING DOWN.
I HAD A BET WITH YOUR FATHER ABOUT IT. TELL HIM HE OWES ME MONEY.
HE ALREADY HAD ME PLACE THE FRANCS ON YOUR DESK WRAPPED IN SYMKARIAN SILK.
RESPECTFUL, WITH A HINT OF INSOLENCE. I LIKE IT.


OUR MASTER, THE PUBLIC OFFICES-- THERE ARE REQUESTS FOR A STATEMENT ON THE ANTLION PROJECT.
I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY ON IT.
WITHOUT A STATEMENT THEY'LL PRINT THAT YOU WERE WRONG...

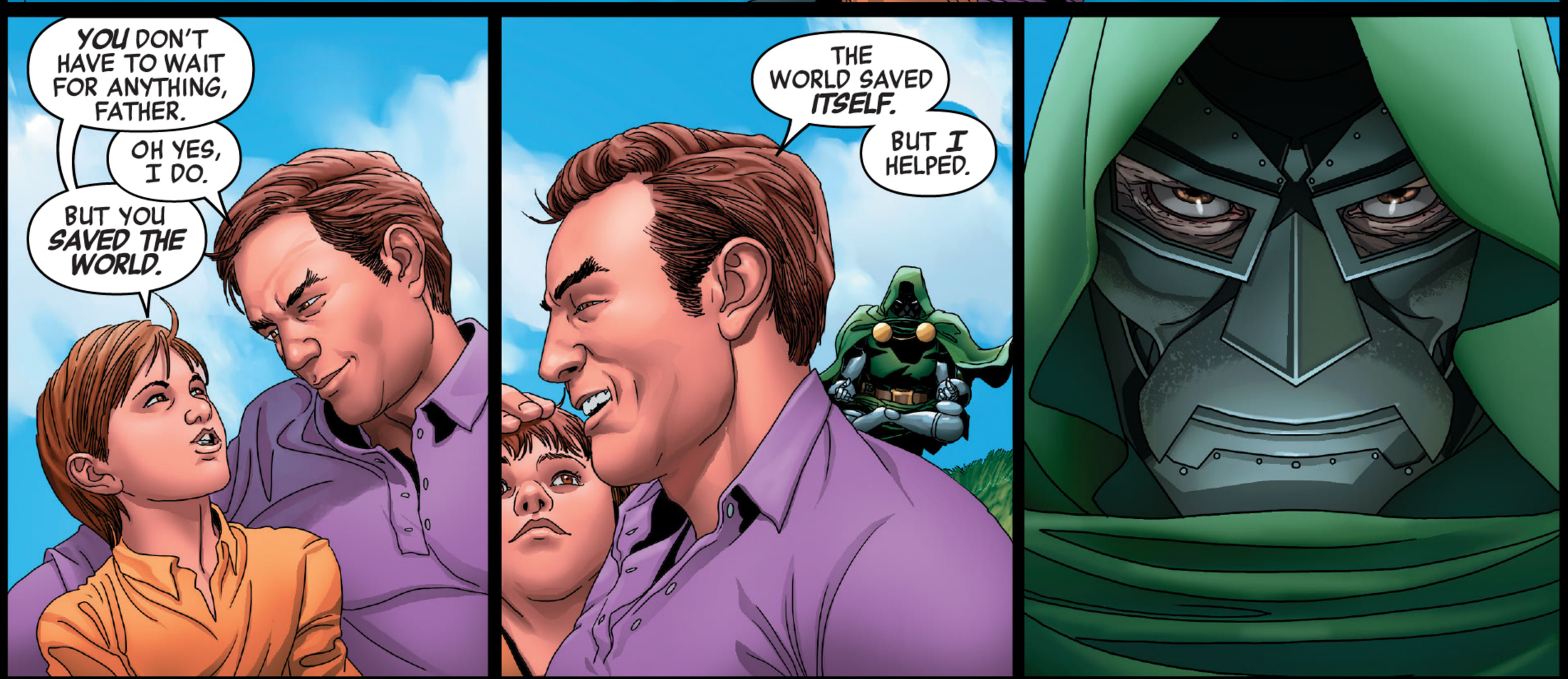
AND HOW AM I WRONG, PETRA?

NO, LORD, IT'S NOT THAT YOU... BUT THE PRESS... 20% CO_2 REDUCTION SINCE ACTIVATION A COOLING OF .35 DEGREES--

I'VE BEEN OVERTHROWN, THEN WELCOMED BACK WITH A PARADE. MY OWN ROBOTS REBELLED. I DISMANTLED THEM.
YOU THINK I CARE FOR THE OPINIONS OF INVERTEBRATE JOURNALISTS?
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
GOOD MORNING, STEVE.
SEE THAT HE'S FED TODAY, WILL YOU?
...SO...NO STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, THEN.
YOU'RE AS AUDACIOUS AS YOUR FATHER. I'D HAVE YOU SHOT IF I DIDN'T APPRECIATE THE CANDOR.
TELL THEM... "JUST WAIT. IT WILL ALL COME CRASHING DOWN SOON ENOUGH."

FOCUS COMES EASY.
TO SEEK MORE IS TO SEEK SUFFERING.
ACCEPTANCE MAKES ME LIGHTER THAN AIR, AS IF I WERE THE AGED GENGHIS HIMSELF.
THEY SAY MY DISPLEASURE WITH THE ANTLION IS DUE TO MY VANITY.
BUT IT'S DUE TO THEIRS.

IN TRUTH, THIS WORLD IS TOO FAR GONE--WE ARE TOO FAR GONE--FOR SAVING.
I'M BORED.
PATIENCE, COSTIN.
I JUST WANT A STUPID FISH.
IN SCIENCE, DO YOU KNOW HOW WE ACHIEVE A DESIRED RESULT?
WE WAIT.


YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANYTHING, FATHER.
OH YES, I DO.
BUT YOU SAVED THE WORLD.
THE WORLD SAVED ITSELF.
BUT I HELPED.

ANTLION CONTROL CENTER.
DARK SIDE OF THE MOON.
ROGER, 6-8-4, CO_2 WASTE MOVING TO ANTLION BREACH POINT 9.
STAY SAFE, POGO 1.
EASY PEASY, NORMAL DROP.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE TRASH CAN'S GOT NO BOTTOM.
PRETTY CAKE GIG IF YOU ASK ME.
I'M GONNA HIT THE VENDING MACHINES. WANT ANYTHING?
KAAAAOOOM

WHAT--?
FMMMMMMMMM
KAAACCUMM
BY THE SEVEN DEVILS...

37 MINUTES LATER.

WHO GAVE THE ORDER TO LAUNCH THOSE MISSILES?

MASTER--

WHO?!

WE DON'T KNOW. THE SILOS ACTIVATED *WITHOUT WARNING.*

TARGET? *DAMAGE?*

ANTLION STATION AND CONTROL CENTER. BUT THE CONTROL CENTER WAS *HIT FROM WITHIN* BEFORE--

DAMAGE?

...THEY'RE BOTH GONE.

HOW MANY PERSONNEL ON BOARD THE STATION, IN THE CENTER? CASUALTIES?

NEARLY 3,000.

MY GOD, LOOK...

TERRORISTS WHO ATTACKED THE CONTROL STATION...

THAT'S THE *LATVERIAN FLAG.*

SHN

BREAKING: TERRORIST ATTACK ON ANTLION STATION

THE U.S. HAS AUTHORIZED ***UNILATERAL ACTION.*** NATO UNITS WITHIN ROMANIA AND HUNGARY HAVE ALSO BEEN MOBILIZED.

I NEED TO SPEAK WITH THEM.

WHO--

PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTERS, DICTATORS--***ANY #$%#$& RULER!***

MASTER, AIR STRIKES INBOUND. MULTIPLE SITES...

HAVE THE DEFENSE SYSTEM INTERCEPT--

THE DEFENSE SYSTEM IS ***OFFLINE.*** WE'VE LOST MUNITIONS IN NZOVI...AN AIR BASE OUTSIDE SUBOT... OH NO...

THE CITY OF RELASKIC HAS BEEN HIT. POPULATION 65,000--

SURRENDER.

WHAT?

SURRENDER. FULL SURRENDER. UNCONDITIONAL.

MASTER--

NOW!

YOUR EXCELLENCY, EMERGENCY DIRECTIVES HAVE BEEN SENT TO EVERY SUPERHUMAN IN THE BALTIC REGION. YOU'RE TO BE CAPTURED OR KILLED--
LISTEN TO ME. I'LL BE ARRESTED WITHIN THE NEXT HOUR. YOU WILL STEP IN AS LATVERIA'S REGENT, THEN CEDE FULL MILITARY CONTROL TO NATO.
BUT I CAN'T--
YOU WILL, ZORA! YOU WANTED TO BE THIS COUNTRY'S HERO, BE IT NOW!
I'LL DO WHAT IS ASKED. BUT YOU WILL TELL ME THE TRUTH.
IS THIS YOUR DOING?
HOW DARE YOU, ZORA.
HOW DARE YOU.

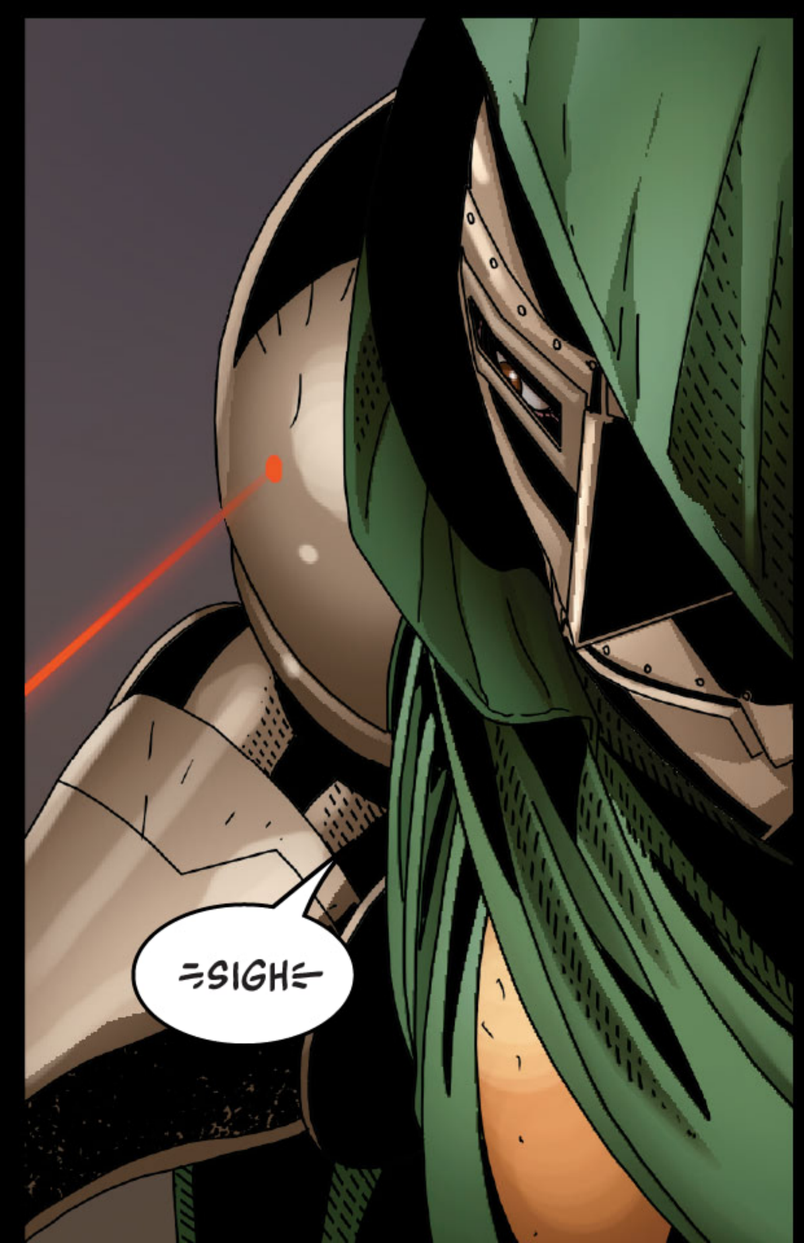
TWO HOURS AFTER THE DISASTER.
TOO FAR GONE FOR SAVING.

!
YOU EVIL #$%#$@!
FWACK
HRRG!
FOOL!
KNCH
I WAS IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN BELGRADE WHEN IT CAME OVER THE WIRE.
YOU'RE NOT WORTH THE *SPIT* PEOPLE'LL DRENCH YOU IN!
BATCH

HMMMF!

BREXIT STAGE LEFT, *FLEA.*

GAAAAH!



GYYAAAUUGH...

HE'S *MINE*, JACK. DOOM'S INTERPOL REWARD JUST SHOT THROUGH THE ROOF.

SHOVE OFF, AGENT ZERO...THIS ISN'T ABOUT SOME *BOUNTY*. THREE THOUSAND *DEAD*...

GMMPFF

CEASE. NOW.

YOU FIRST.

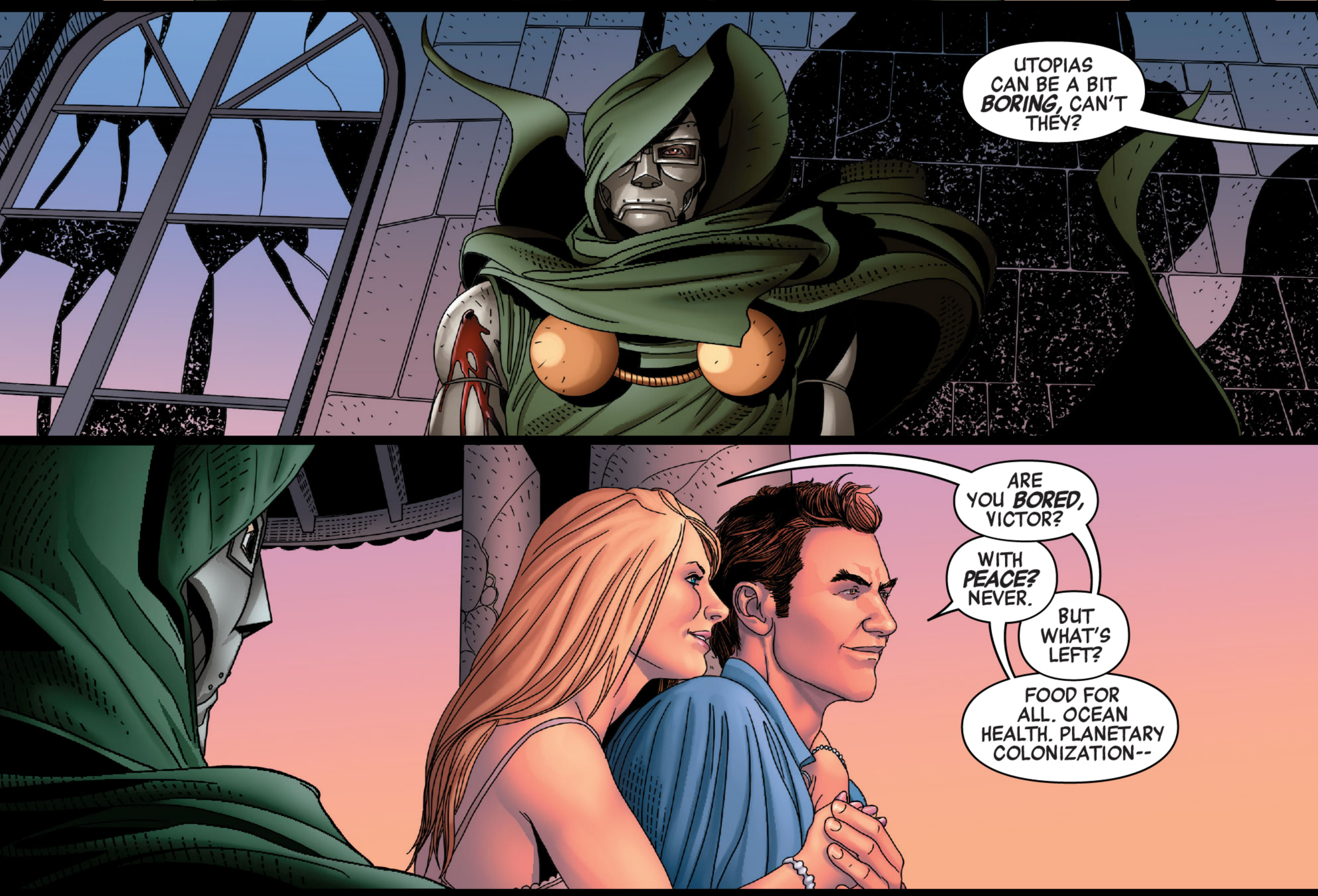
KAOFF

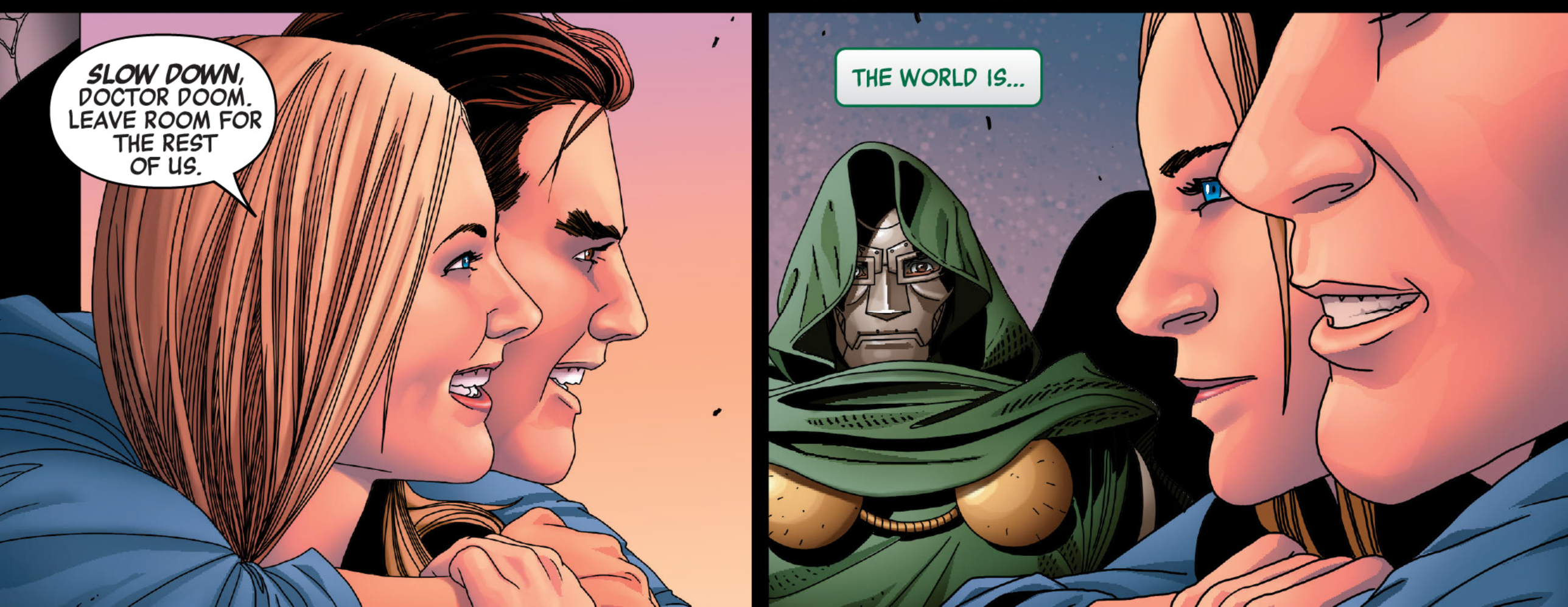
@#$%! ARMOR!

PANG

I'LL HANDLE--

BAAOOWW
BAAOOWW
I'D LIKE TO INFORM YOU BOTH THAT I INTEND TO SURRENDER.


UTOPIAS CAN BE A BIT *BORING*, CAN'T THEY?
ARE YOU *BORED*, VICTOR?
WITH *PEACE?* NEVER.
BUT WHAT'S LEFT?
FOOD FOR ALL. OCEAN HEALTH. PLANETARY COLONIZATION--

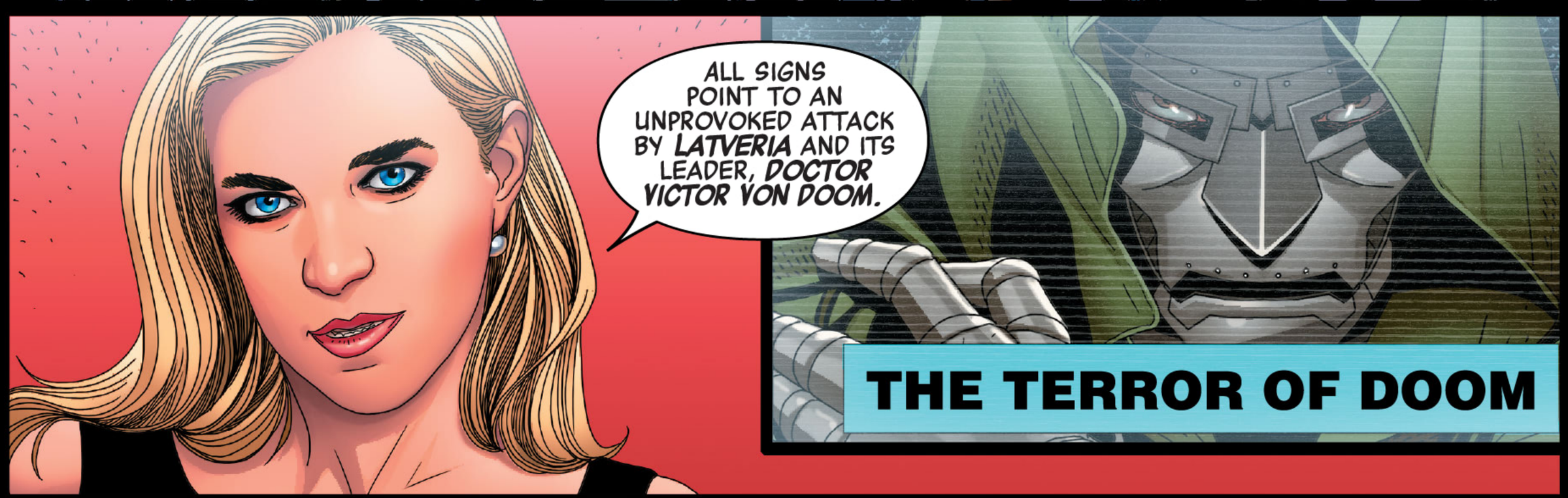

SLOW DOWN, DOCTOR DOOM. LEAVE ROOM FOR THE REST OF US.
THE WORLD IS...

THE WORLD IS...
...NOT MINE.

2

Mother Morgan Comes to Me

"AROUND THE WORLD TONIGHT, PEOPLE MOURN. FOR THE LIVES OF THOSE ON THE ANTLION PROJECT, AND FOR THE PLANET ITSELF.
"2,653 DEAD.
"AND HOW MANY MORE WILL DIE WITH THE HOPE OF ANTLION DESTROYED?"


ALL SIGNS POINT TO AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK BY LATVERIA AND ITS LEADER, DOCTOR VICTOR VON DOOM.
THE TERROR OF DOOM

<BUT AS SALVAGE EFFORTS CONTINUE--LED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND SEVERAL EARTH HEROES--A CURIOUS TURN OF EVENTS...>*
ANTLION DISASTER
*TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH.

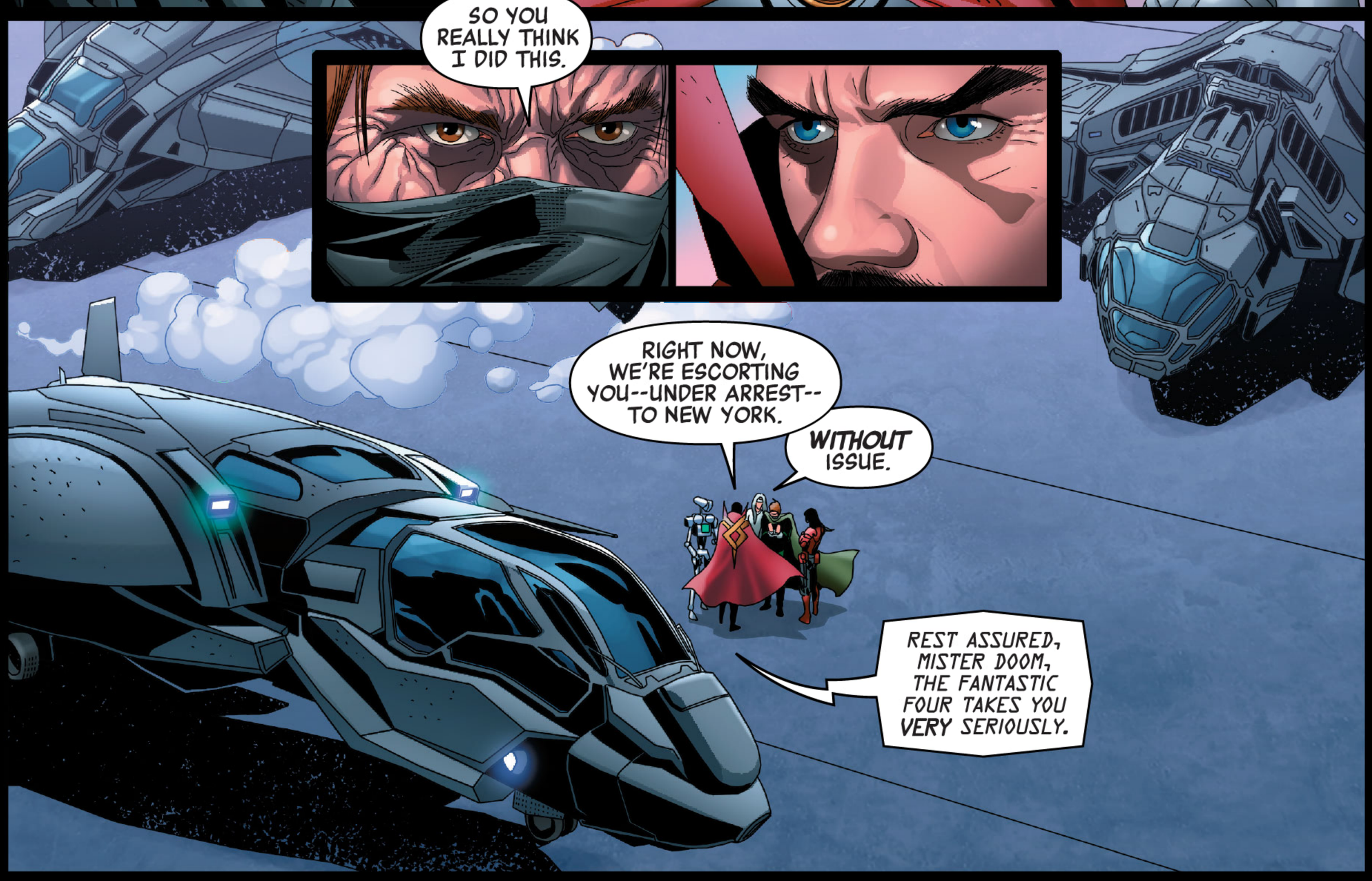
<DOOM HAS SURRENDERED. SUPERHUMANS WILL TRANSFER HIM TO NEW YORK CITY TO AWAIT TRIAL BY THE U.N. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL.>*
*TRANSLATED FROM FARSI.
THANK YOU. FOR COVERING MY FACE.

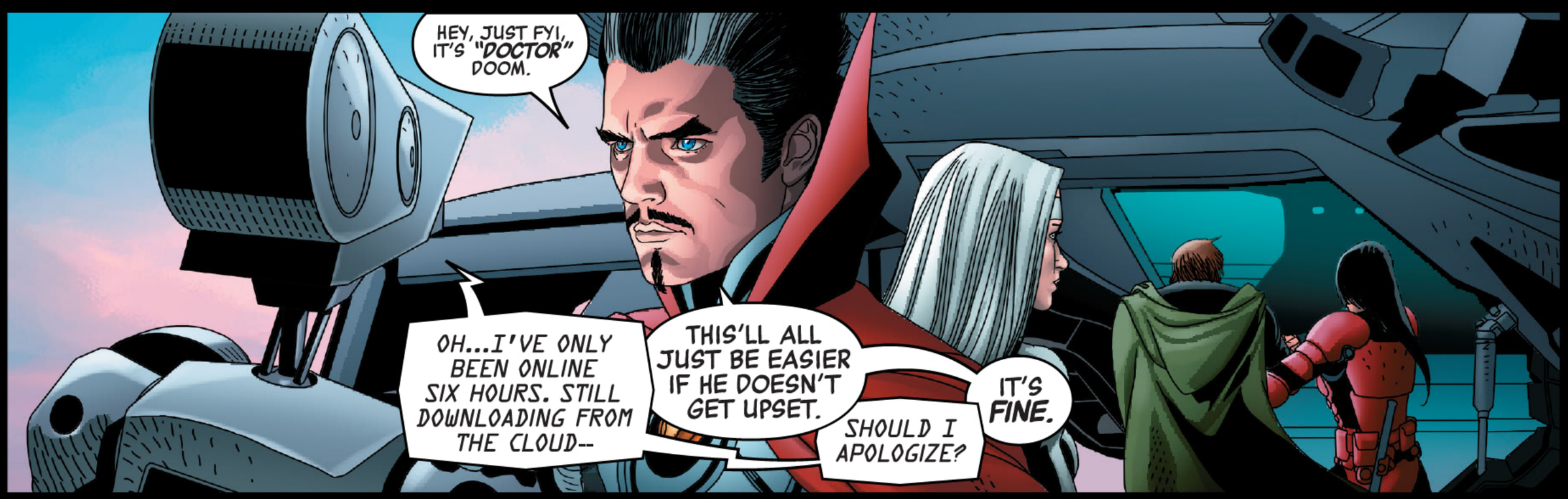
AGENT ZERO, BOUNTY HUNTER, PAID $20K FOR SERVICES RENDERED.
SPECIAL OPS CAPTAIN, NAME CLASSIFIED.
UNION JACK, PROVIDING EUROPEAN OVERSIGHT OF PRISONER TRANSFER.
AMY CHEN, NINJA, WILD PACK MEMBER, UNDER ORDERS TO KILL DOOM AT ANY SIGN OF TROUBLE.
STEPHEN, SILVER. ALWAYS A PLEASURE.
H.E.R.B.I.E., ANDROID BUILT BY REED RICHARDS, SERVING AS EYES FOR THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
LET'S MAKE THIS TEXTBOOK, FRIEND.
SILVER SABLE, SYMKARIAN MERCENARY, HEAD OF THE WILD PACK, FORMER ALLY OF DOOM'S.
DR. STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME, HERE TO KEEP DOOM'S MYSTIC POWERS IN CHECK.
EASY DOES IT, VICTOR.

ON BEHALF OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR, I--

ARE YOU SERIOUS? RICHARDS COULDN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED?

RICHARDS--ALONG WITH A FEW HUNDRED OTHERS--IS LEADING RECOVERY EFFORTS ON THE MOON AFTER THE ATROCITY YOU COMMITTED.

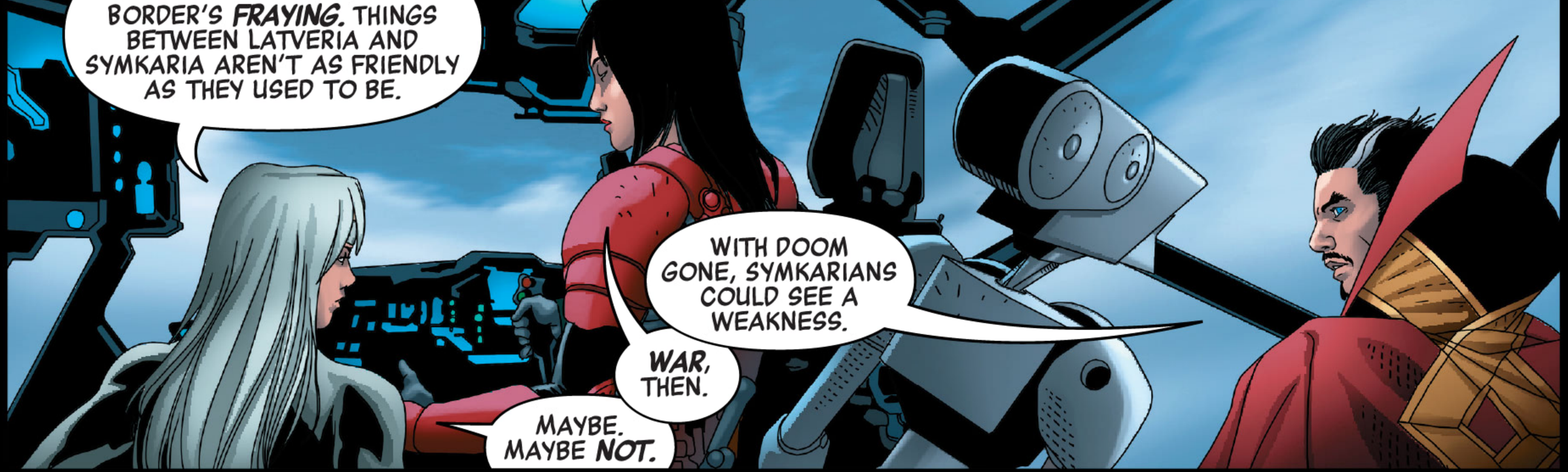

SO YOU REALLY THINK I DID THIS.
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE ESCORTING YOU--UNDER ARREST--TO NEW YORK.
WITHOUT ISSUE.
REST ASSURED, MISTER DOOM, THE FANTASTIC FOUR TAKES YOU VERY SERIOUSLY.


HEY, JUST FYI, IT'S "DOCTOR" DOOM.
OH...I'VE ONLY BEEN ONLINE SIX HOURS. STILL DOWNLOADING FROM THE CLOUD--
THIS'LL ALL JUST BE EASIER IF HE DOESN'T GET UPSET.
SHOULD I APOLOGIZE?
IT'S FINE.

HOURS LATER.

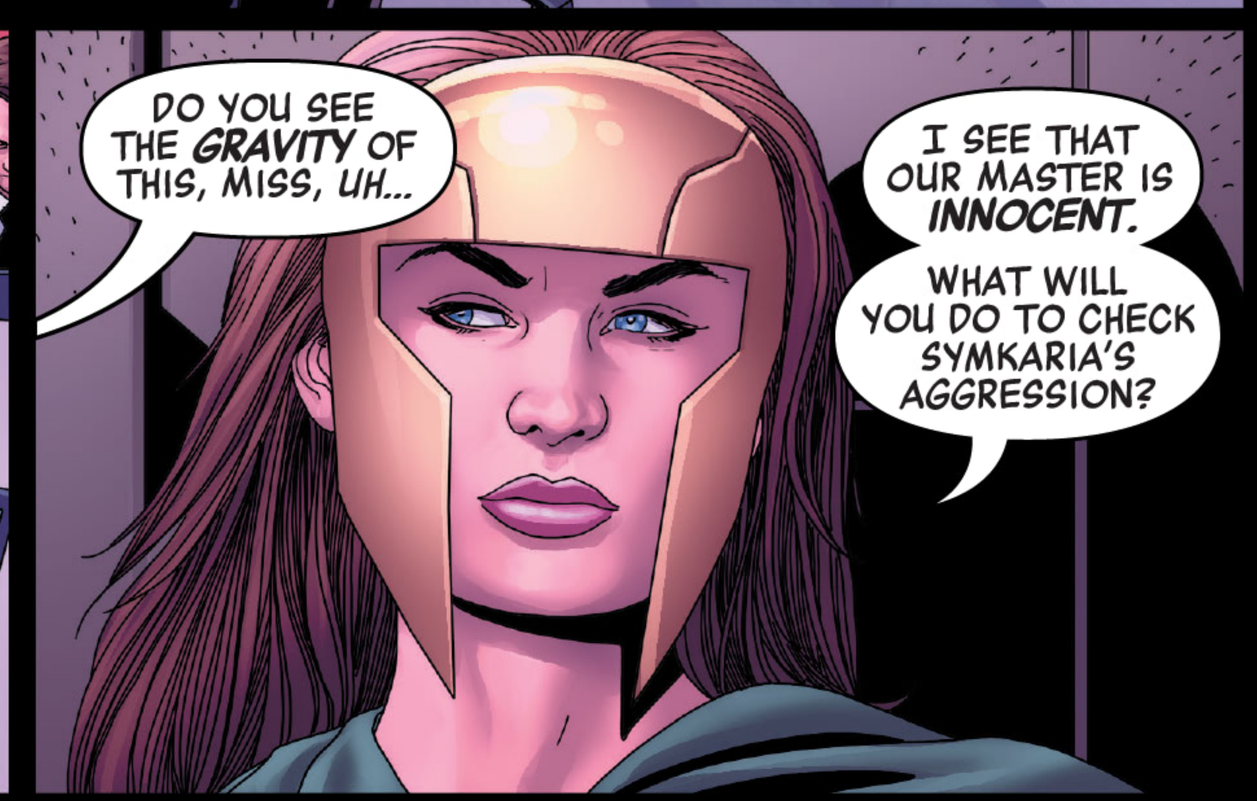
WE'VE BEEN TO HELL AND BACK, STRANGE.
A FEW TIMES. YOU EVEN TRIED TO LEAVE ME THERE ONCE.
NONE OF THIS IS MY DOING.

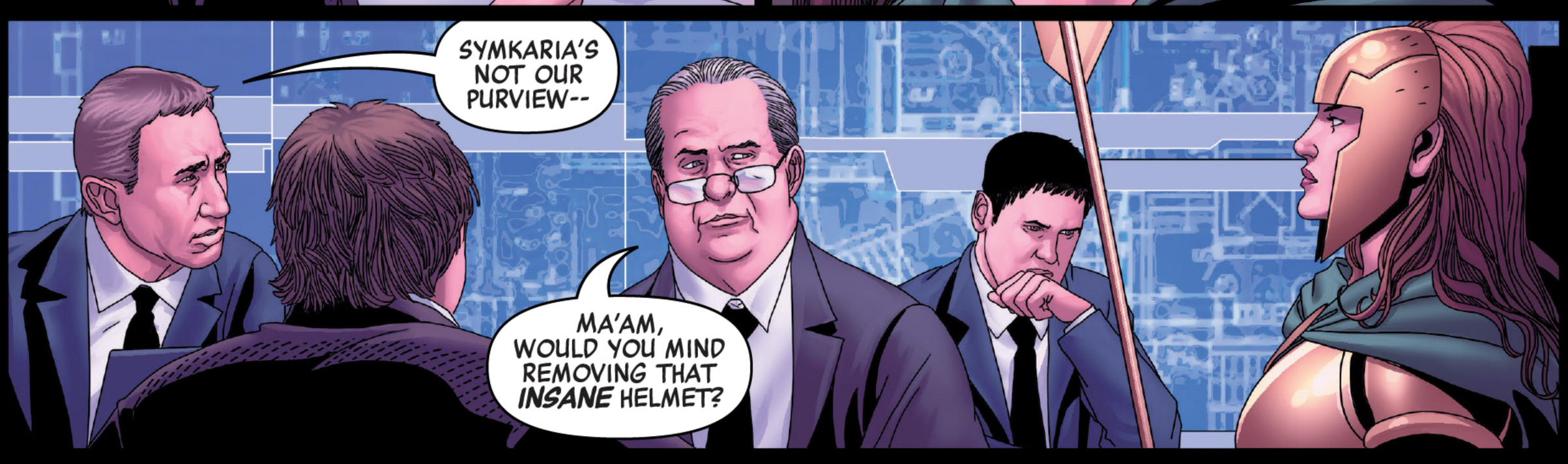
I SWEAR ON MY MOTHER'S SOUL.
THAT SHOULD MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU.


BORDER'S FRAYING. THINGS BETWEEN LATVERIA AND SYMKARIA AREN'T AS FRIENDLY AS THEY USED TO BE.
WITH DOOM GONE, SYMKARIANS COULD SEE A WEAKNESS.
WAR, THEN.
MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.

TRADE SANCTIONS ARE IN EFFECT. YOUR EMBASSIES WILL BE SHUTTERED--
VICTORIOUS, REGENT OF LATVERIA.
THERE ARE ONLY THREE.
AND EACH ONE IS FILLED WITH WEAPONS AND SPYING EQUIPMENT, ALL BEING SEIZED--
LATVERIA, WAR ROOM OF DOOM.

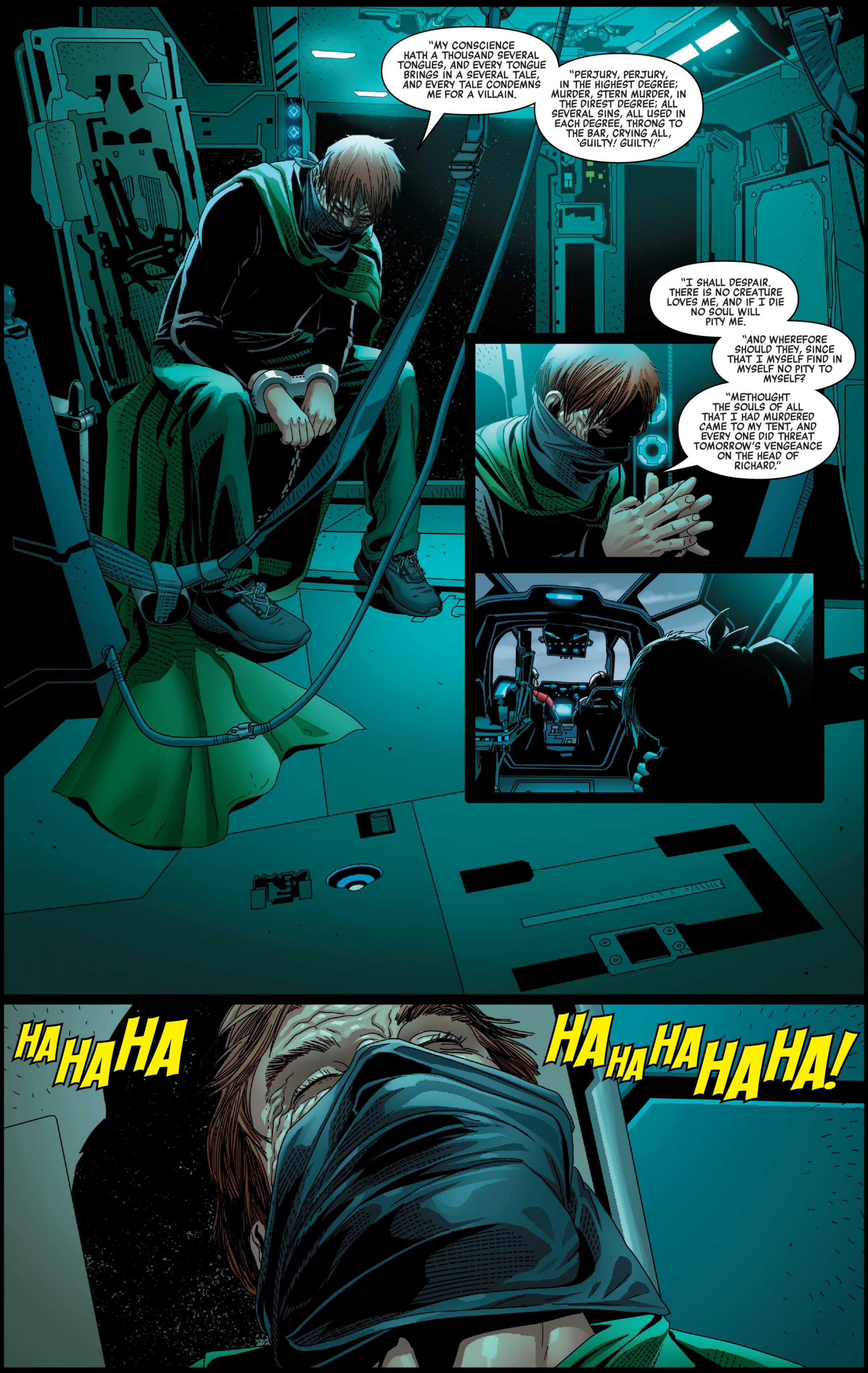
DO AS YOU MUST. WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.
GOOD. BECAUSE INSPECTIONS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY. AND MILITARY ASSETS HAVE MOVED TO OUR CONTROL.
FOR NOW.

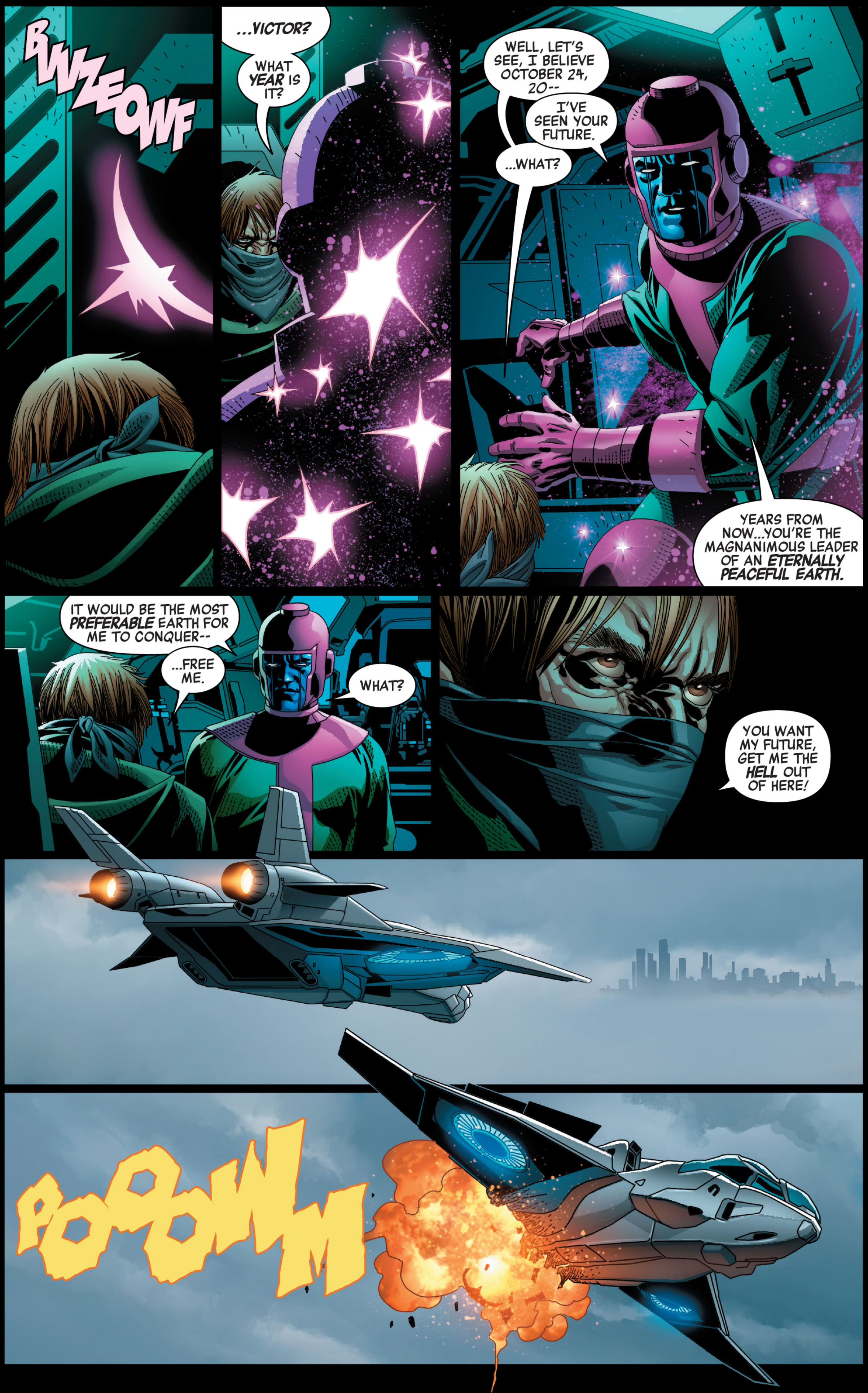

DO YOU SEE THE GRAVITY OF THIS, MISS, UH...
I SEE THAT OUR MASTER IS INNOCENT.
WHAT WILL YOU DO TO CHECK SYMKARIA'S AGGRESSION?

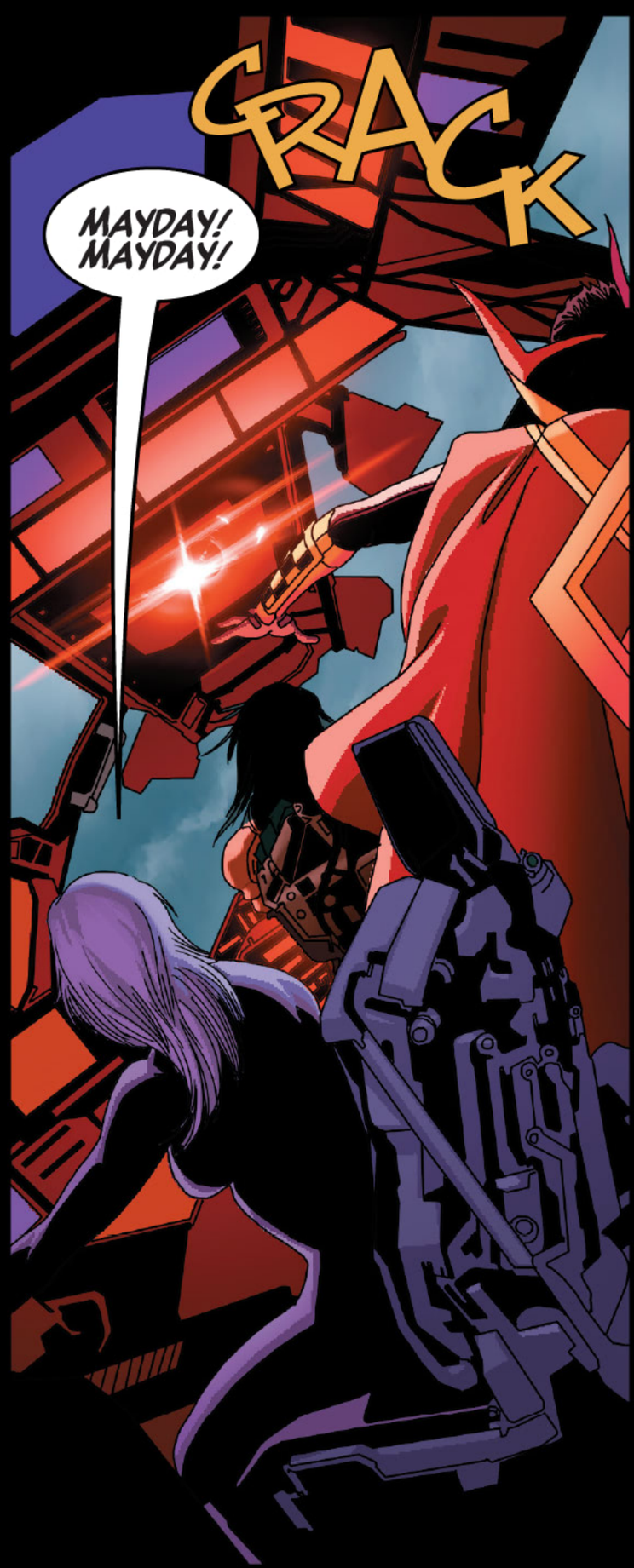

SYMKARIA'S NOT OUR PURVIEW--
MA'AM, WOULD YOU MIND REMOVING THAT INSANE HELMET?

WOULD YOU EVER ASK THE SAME OF DOOM?

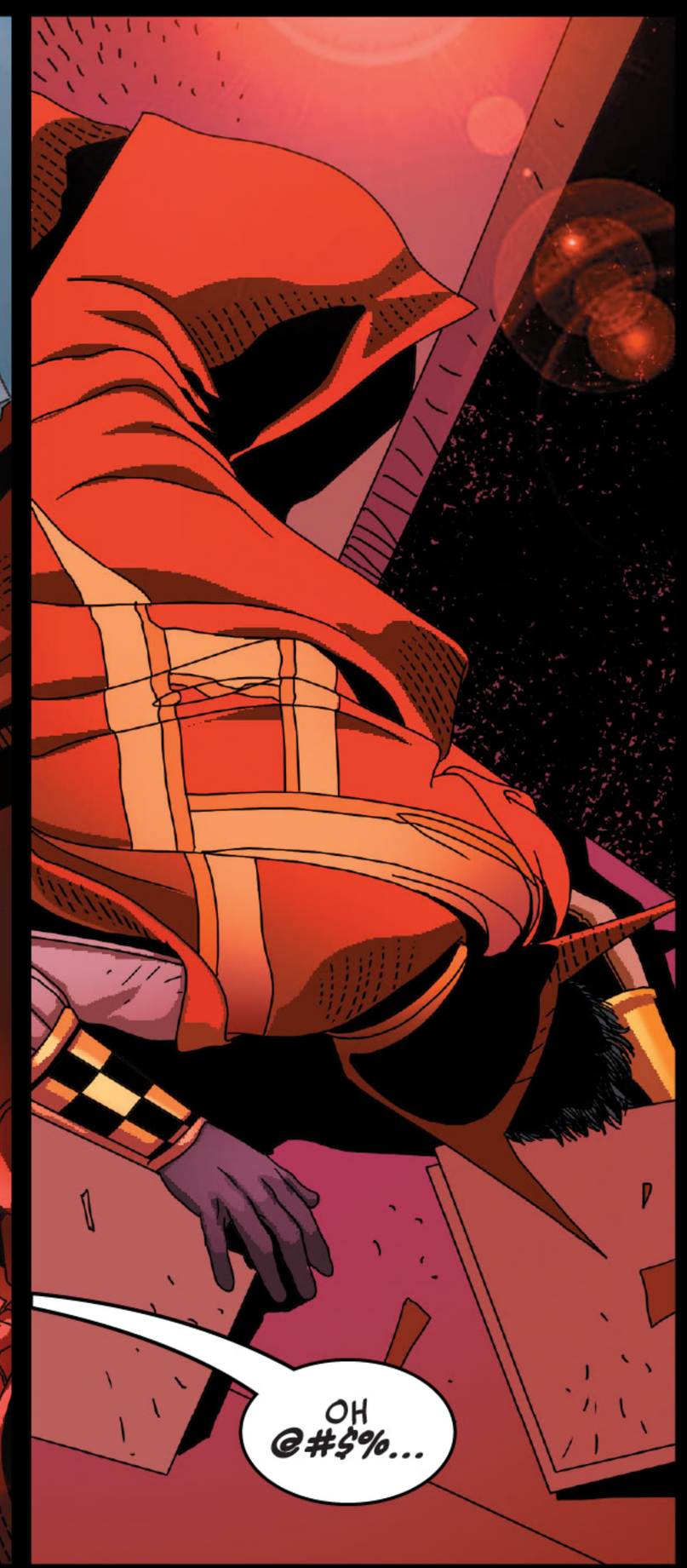
THEN YOU HAVE YOUR ANSWER.

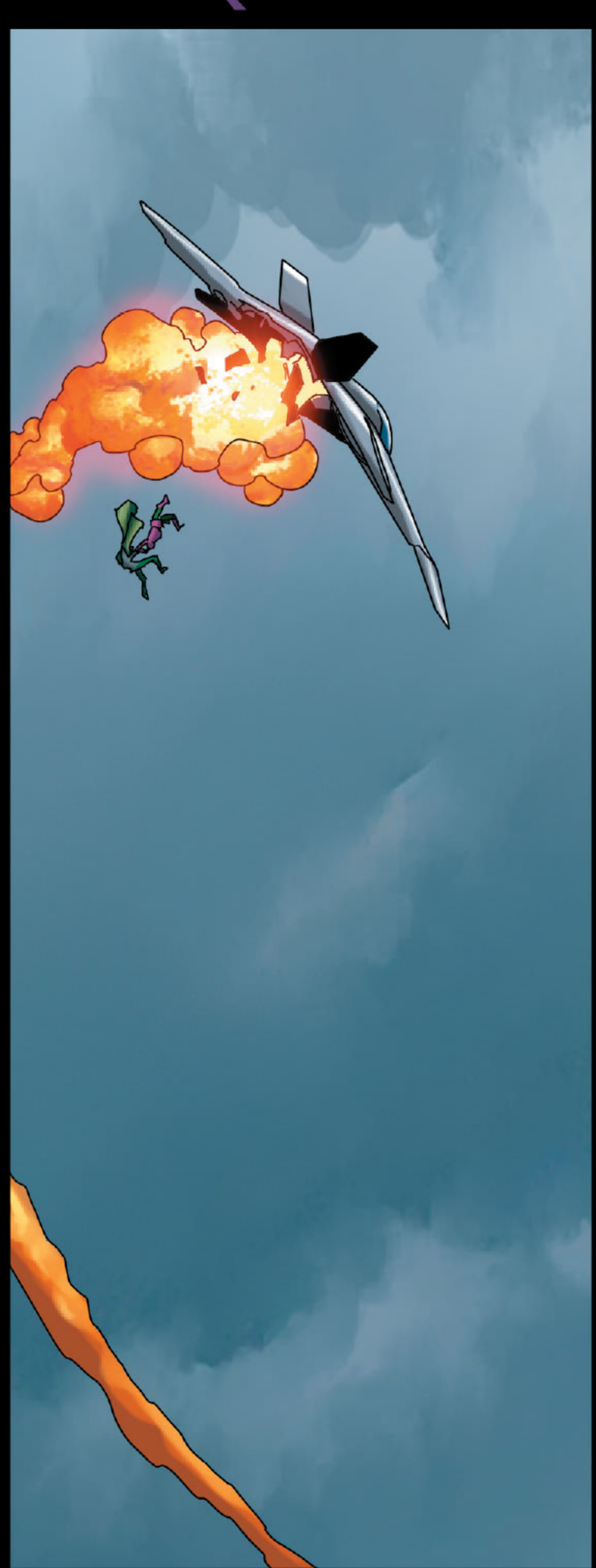

"MY CONSCIENCE HATH A THOUSAND SEVERAL TONGUES, AND EVERY TONGUE BRINGS IN A SEVERAL TALE, AND EVERY TALE CONDEMNS ME FOR A VILLAIN.
"PERJURY, PERJURY, IN THE HIGHEST DEGREE; MURDER, STERN MURDER, IN THE DIREST DEGREE; ALL SEVERAL SINS, ALL USED IN EACH DEGREE, THRONG TO THE BAR, CRYING ALL, 'GUILTY! GUILTY!'
"I SHALL DESPAIR. THERE IS NO CREATURE LOVES ME, AND IF I DIE NO SOUL WILL PITY ME.
"AND WHEREFORE SHOULD THEY, SINCE THAT I MYSELF FIND IN MYSELF NO PITY TO MYSELF?
"METHOUGHT THE SOULS OF ALL THAT I HAD MURDERED CAME TO MY TENT, AND EVERY ONE DID THREAT TOMORROW'S VENGEANCE ON THE HEAD OF RICHARD."
HAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHA!


BWZEOWF
...VICTOR?
WHAT YEAR IS IT?
WELL, LET'S SEE, I BELIEVE OCTOBER 24, 20--
I'VE SEEN YOUR FUTURE.
...WHAT?
YEARS FROM NOW...YOU'RE THE MAGNANIMOUS LEADER OF AN ETERNALLY PEACEFUL EARTH.
IT WOULD BE THE MOST PREFERABLE EARTH FOR ME TO CONQUER--
...FREE ME.
WHAT?
YOU WANT MY FUTURE, GET ME THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
POOOWM


CRACK
MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

DOC, YOU GOT A SPELL FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!


OH @#$%...



UNLOCK THE CUFFS!
IN RETROSPECT, WE PROBABLY SHOULD'VE DONE THAT BEFORE DETONATING THE JET'S REAR COILS--
KANG!
ONE ELECTRICAL CHARGE FROM MY GLOVES AND YOU'RE FREE--
GZZT

BWW
VZEOWF
GOOD LUCK!

OF COURSE.
...BY FORMING 'ROUND ME NOW--A MIGHTY CONJURER'S SPHERE...
...I OWE--
SPAAASSSH
O VISHANTI THREE--AGAMOTTO, OSHTUR, HOGGOTH...
...MAY THE FORCES YOU DID USE 'GAINST THE DEMON CULT OF SLIGGUTH...
...ALL AVOID THIS HARSH OCEAN'S VENEER...

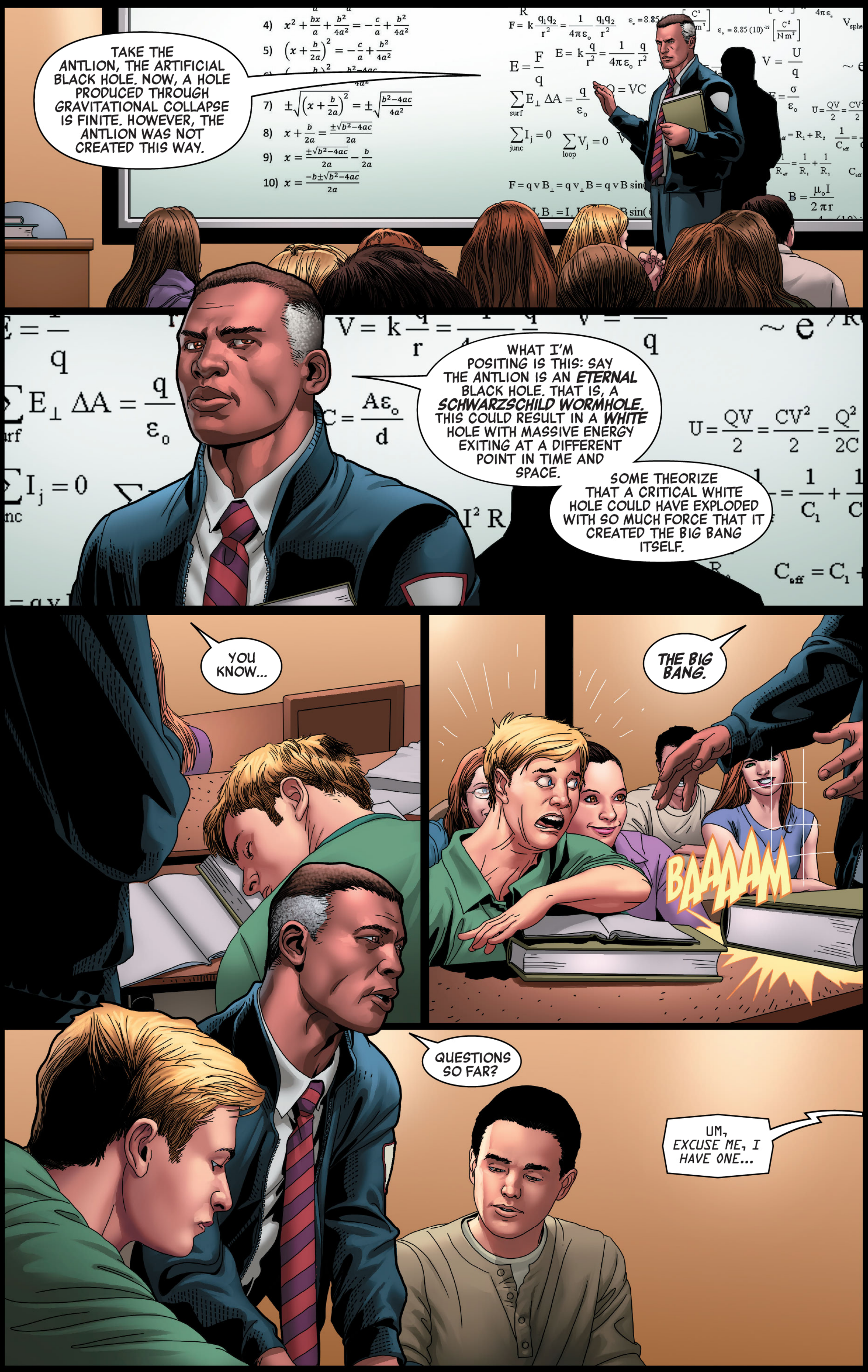
...CALL RICHARDS... GET HELP...

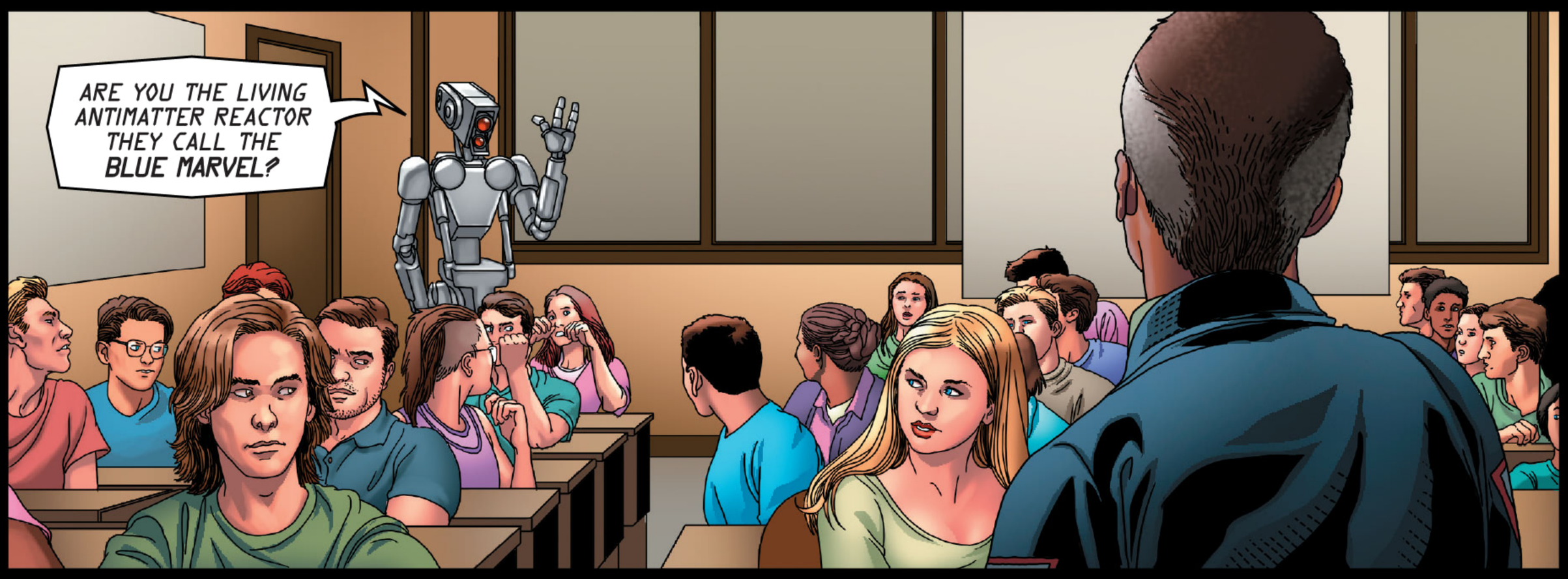
THE WORLD IS...

THE WORLD IS...

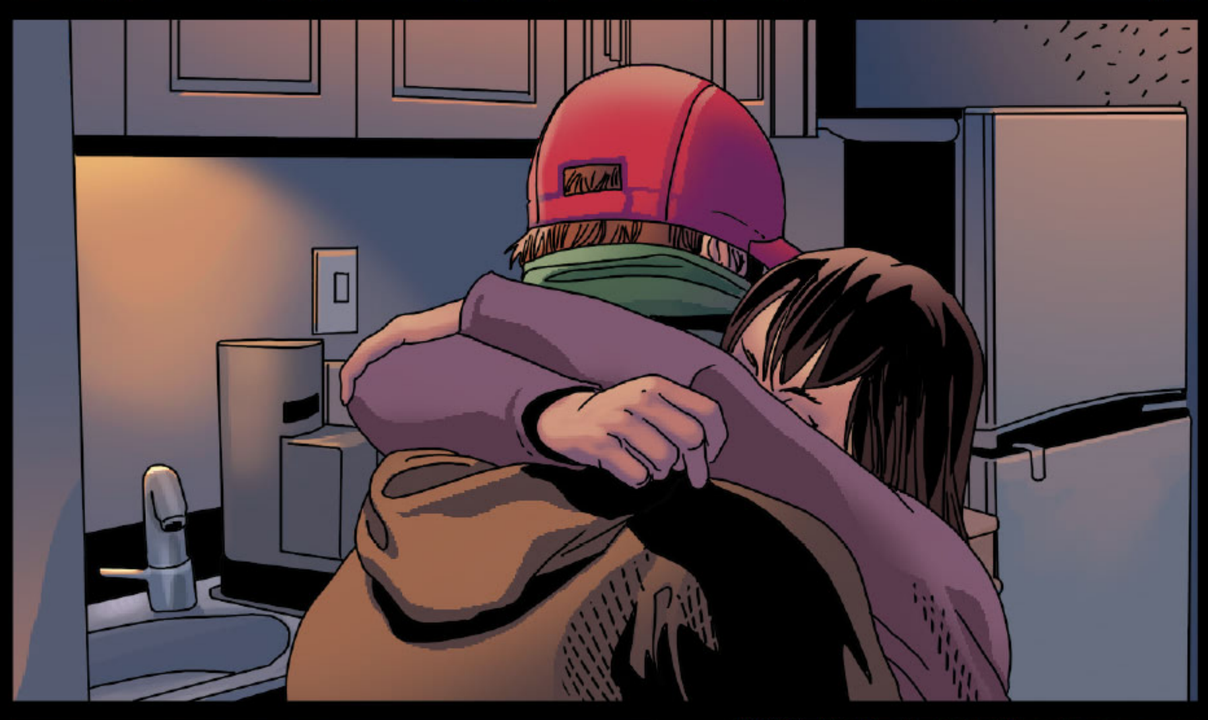
...ANGRY.
DOOM WANTED WORLDWIDE

VICTOR. BEEN A BLOODY LONG TIME, HASN'T IT?
MORGAN LE FAY?!
DON'T WORRY, NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE ME. I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU.
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE...?
LOVE, COME NOW. YOU'RE A SORCERER. I'M A SORCERER. WHAT DO THEY SAY THESE DAYS? GAME RECOGNIZES GAME?
COME SEE ME IN QUEENS. WOULD LOVE TO CATCH UP.


TAKE THE ANTLION, THE ARTIFICIAL BLACK HOLE. NOW, A HOLE PRODUCED THROUGH GRAVITATIONAL COLLAPSE IS FINITE. HOWEVER, THE ANTLION WAS NOT CREATED THIS WAY.
WHAT I'M POSITING IS THIS: SAY THE ANTLION IS AN ETERNAL BLACK HOLE. THAT IS, A SCHWARZSCHILD WORMHOLE. THIS COULD RESULT IN A WHITE HOLE WITH MASSIVE ENERGY EXITING AT A DIFFERENT POINT IN TIME AND SPACE.
SOME THEORIZE THAT A CRITICAL WHITE HOLE COULD HAVE EXPLODED WITH SO MUCH FORCE THAT IT CREATED THE BIG BANG ITSELF.
YOU KNOW...
THE BIG BANG.
BAAAAM
QUESTIONS SO FAR?
UM, EXCUSE ME, I HAVE ONE...

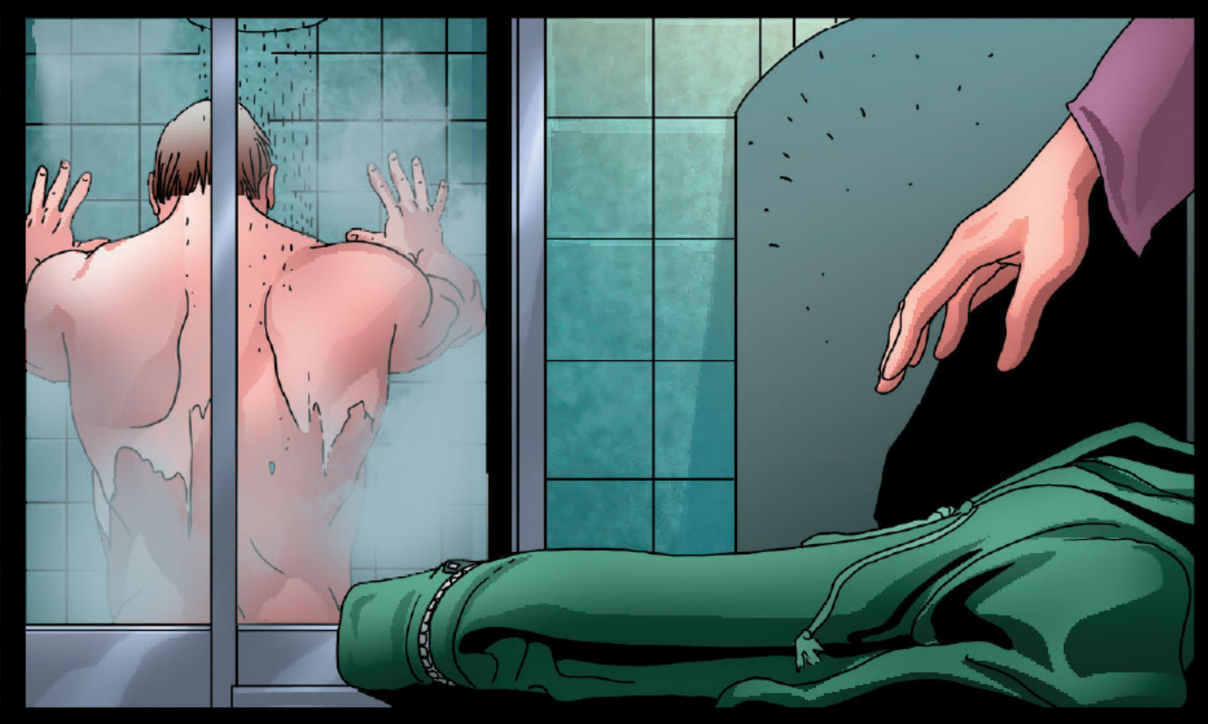

ARE YOU THE LIVING ANTIMATTER REACTOR THEY CALL THE BLUE MARVEL?

QUEENS.
NOK NOK NOK



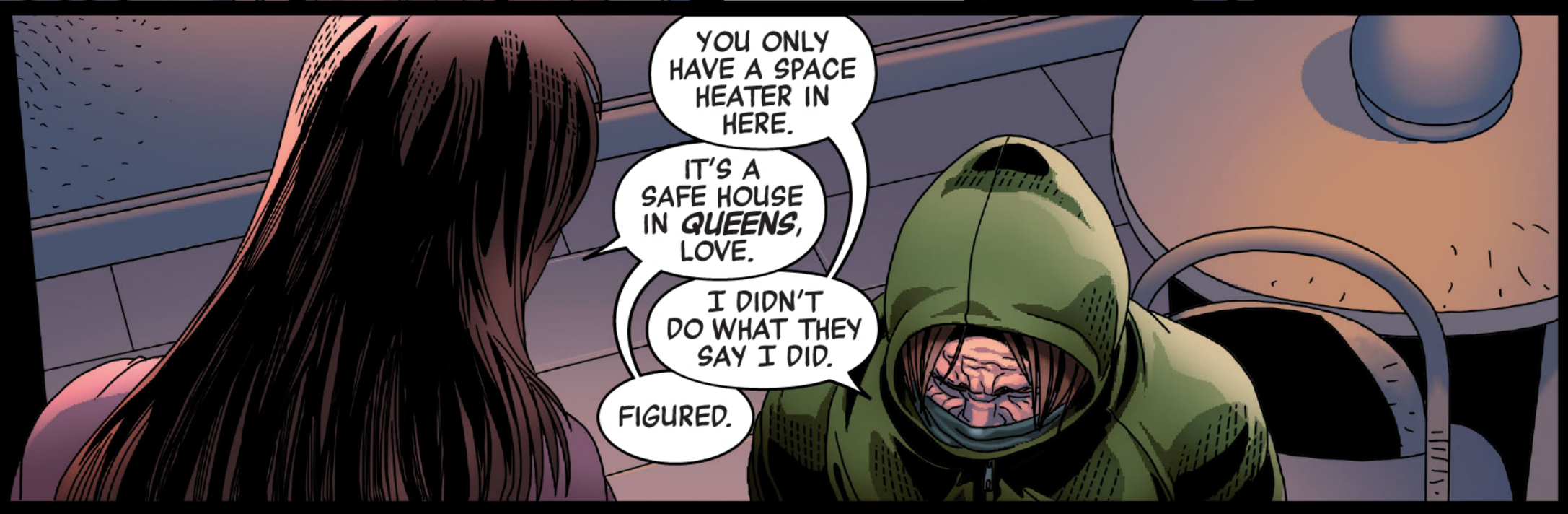
MONDO

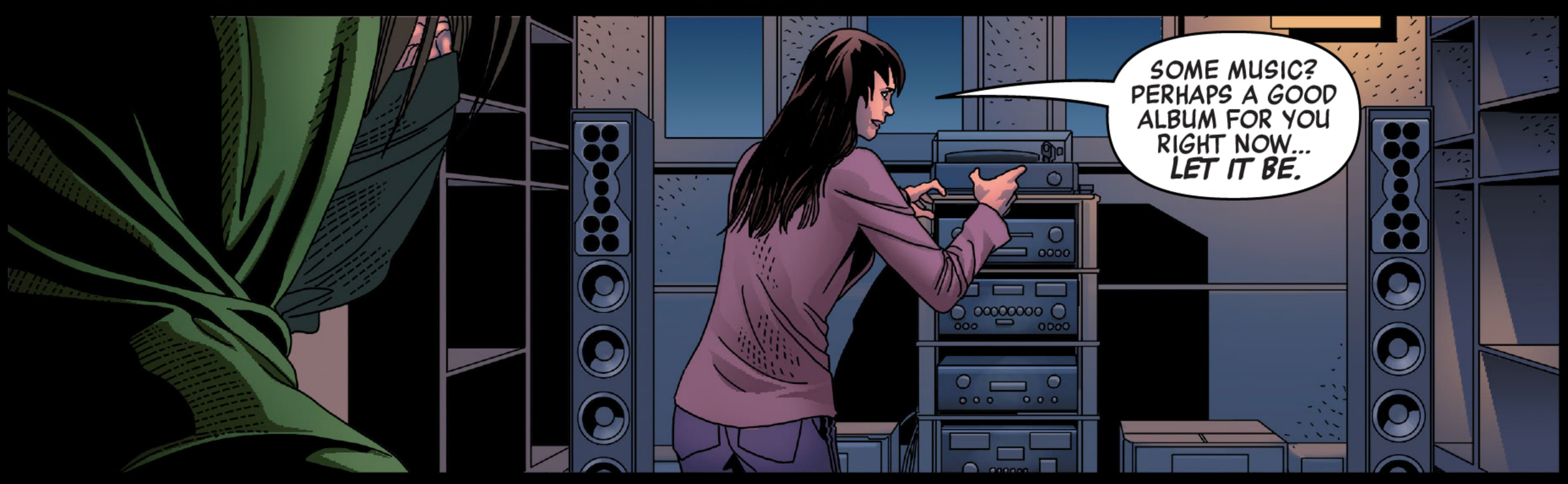
MONDO

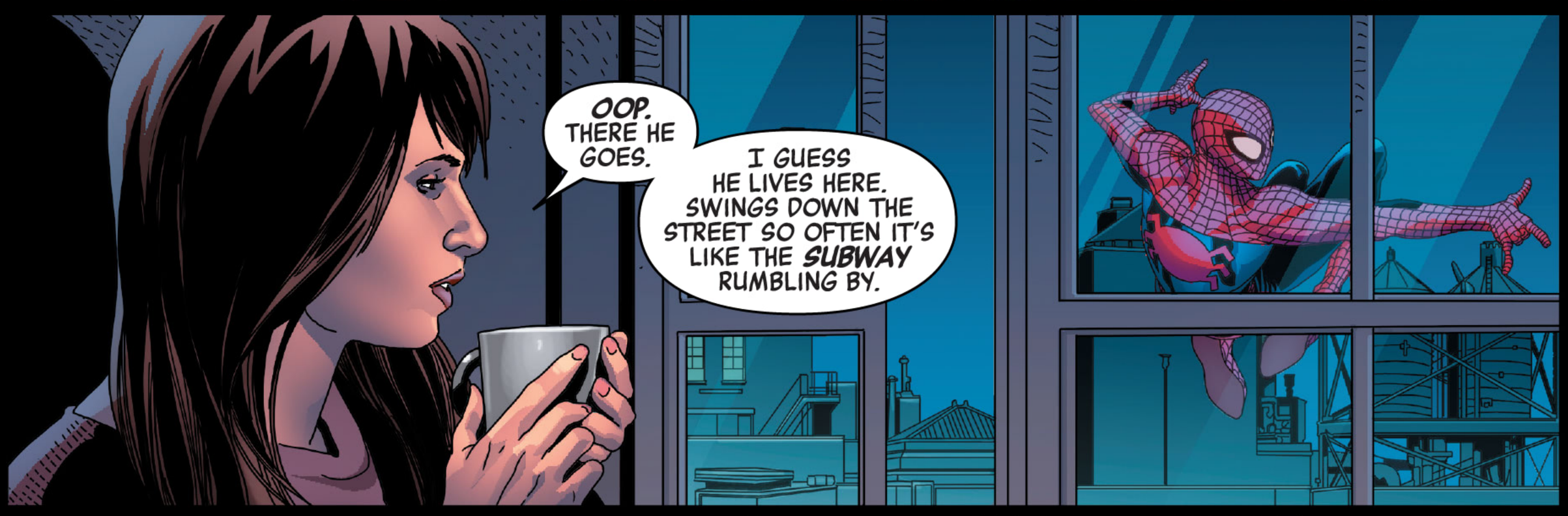


THANK YOU.

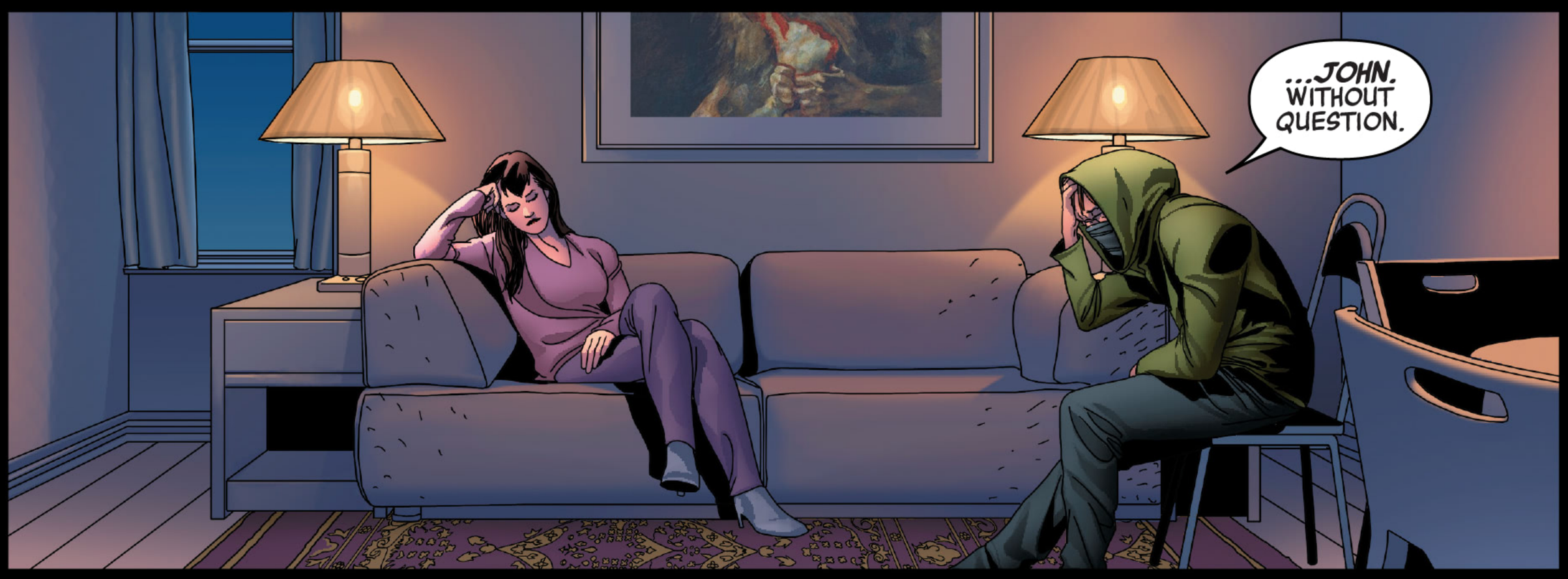
YOU MUST BE IN A RIGHT BAD WAY TO UTTER THOSE WORDS.
WHY ARE YOU HERE, MORGAN?
ALWAYS LOOKING FOR QUIET PLACES TO HIDE FROM MERLIN, MUTANTS, WHOMEVER. AND IT'S RENT-CONTROLLED.

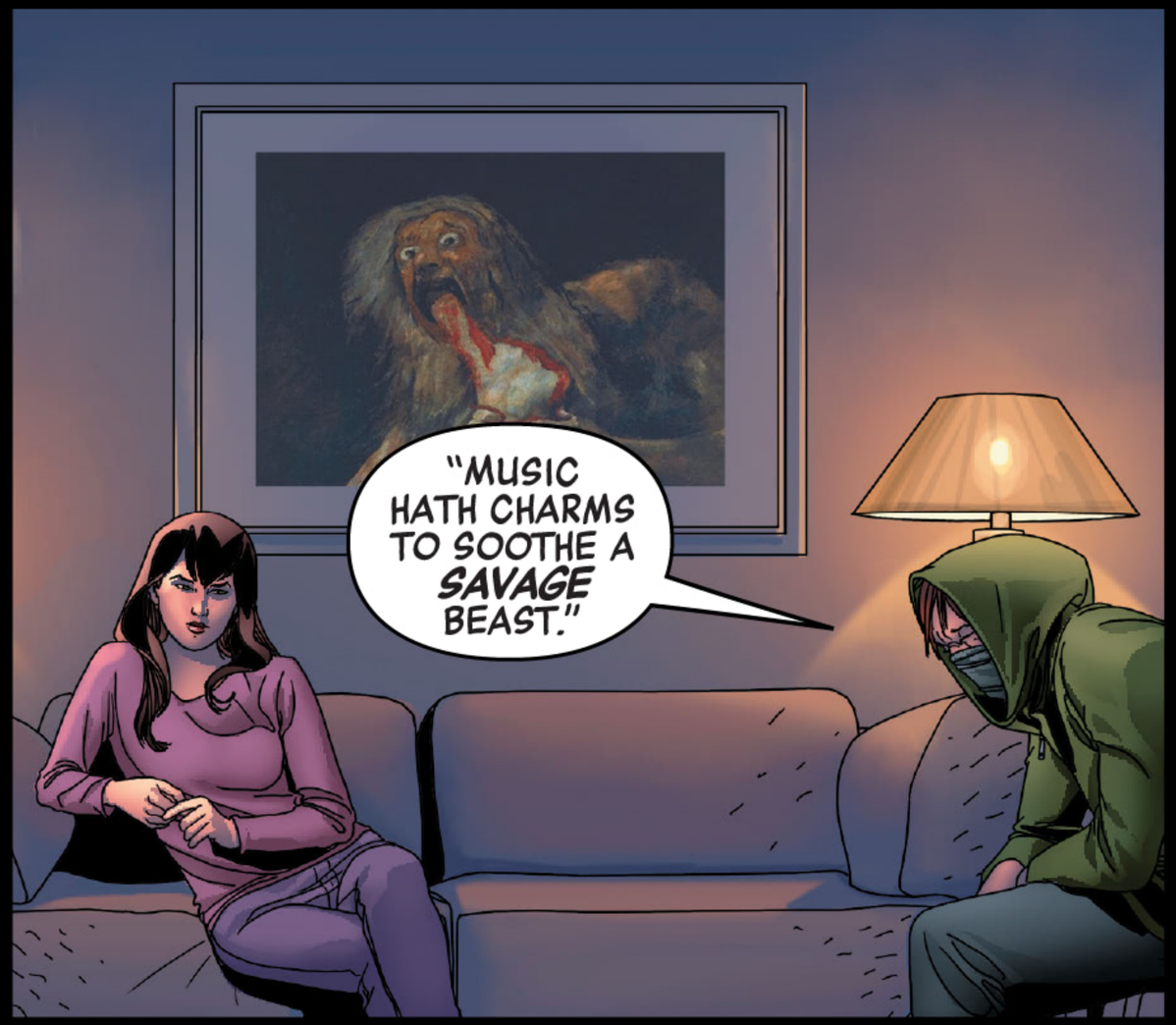

YOU ONLY HAVE A SPACE HEATER IN HERE.
IT'S A SAFE HOUSE IN QUEENS, LOVE.
I DIDN'T DO WHAT THEY SAY I DID.
FIGURED.

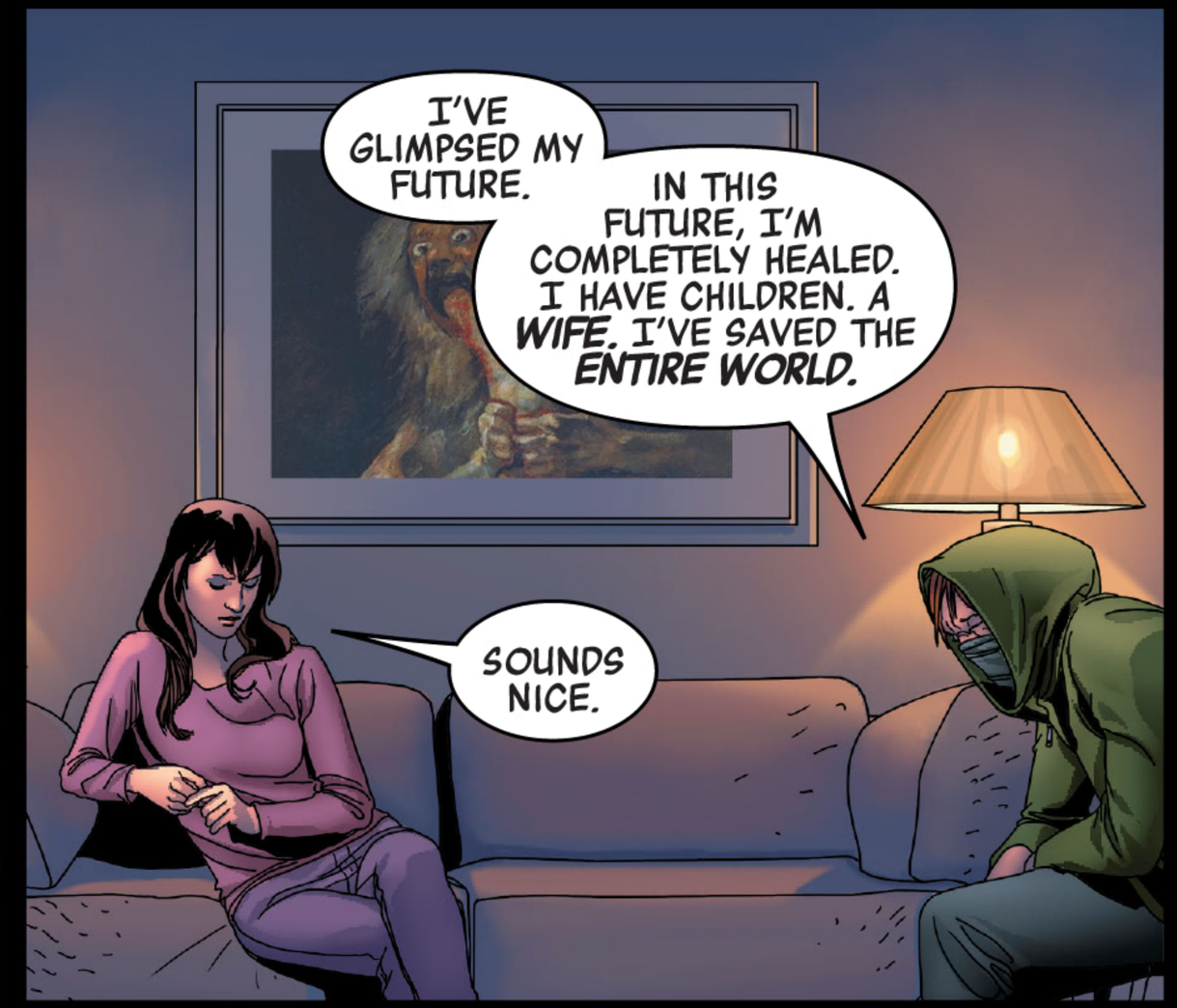

SOME MUSIC? PERHAPS A GOOD ALBUM FOR YOU RIGHT NOW... LET IT BE.

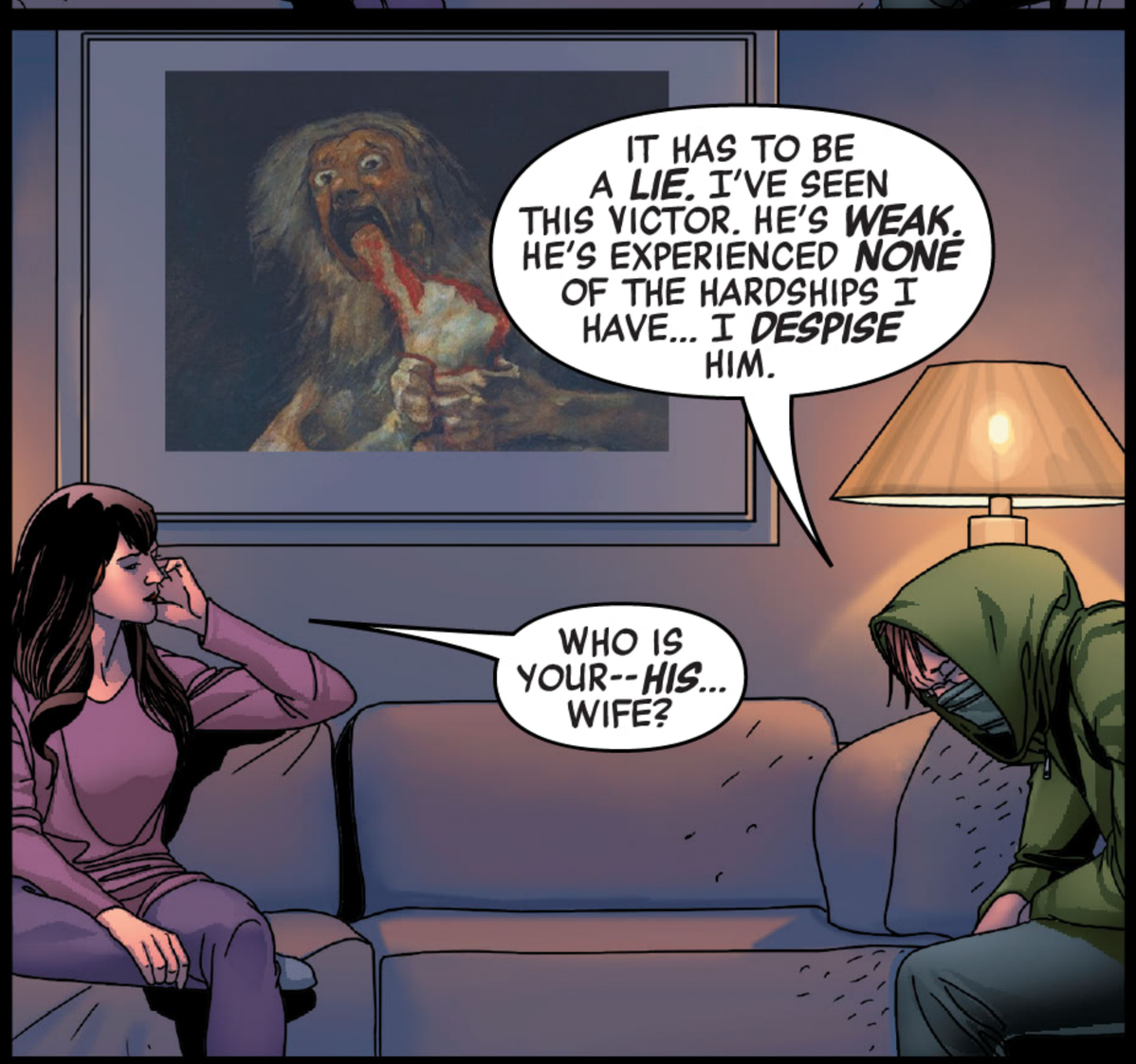

OOP. THERE HE GOES.
I GUESS HE LIVES HERE. SWINGS DOWN THE STREET SO OFTEN IT'S LIKE THE SUBWAY RUMBLING BY.

ANOTHER CURSE IN MY LIFE. A RATHER ABSURD ONE.
OH, COME OFF IT, VICTOR.
SO? WHAT? YOU A PAUL GUY OR A JOHN GUY?
...ANOTHER ABSURD TOPIC.

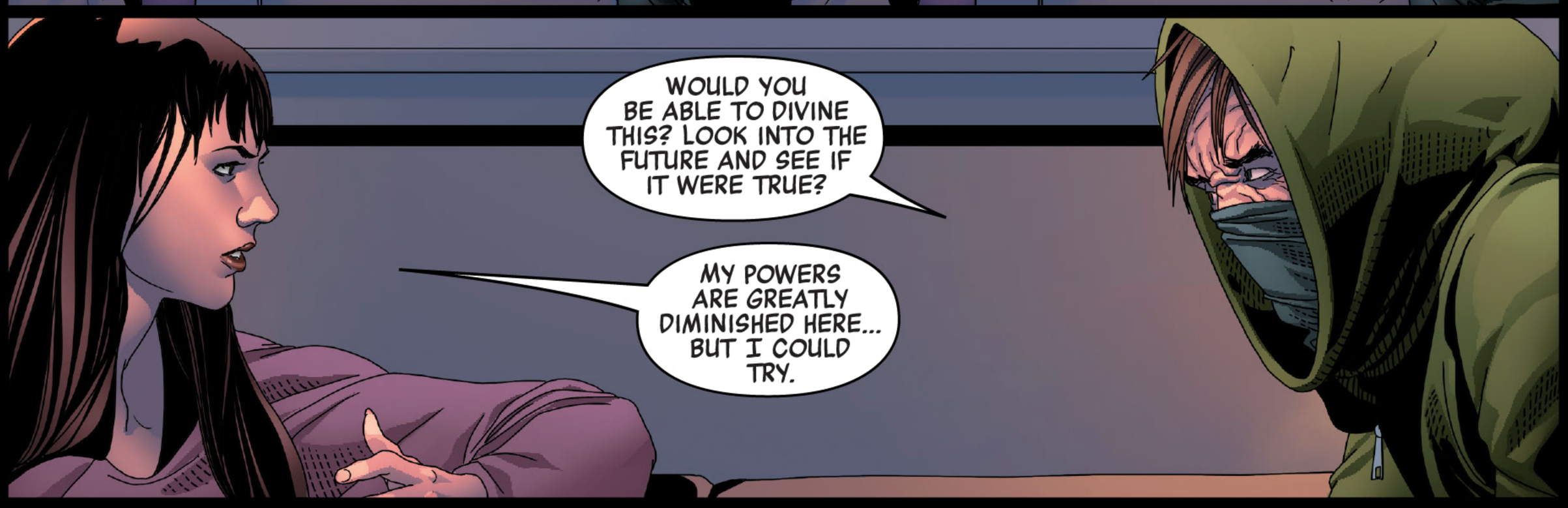

...JOHN. WITHOUT QUESTION.


"MUSIC HATH CHARMS TO SOOTHE A SAVAGE BEAST."


I'VE GLIMPSED MY FUTURE.
IN THIS FUTURE, I'M COMPLETELY HEALED. I HAVE CHILDREN. A WIFE. I'VE SAVED THE ENTIRE WORLD.
SOUNDS NICE.


IT HAS TO BE A LIE. I'VE SEEN THIS VICTOR. HE'S WEAK. HE'S EXPERIENCED NONE OF THE HARDSHIPS I HAVE... I DESPISE HIM.
WHO IS YOUR--HIS... WIFE?

SOME PHYSICIST. A WOMAN NAMED FRUZSINA.

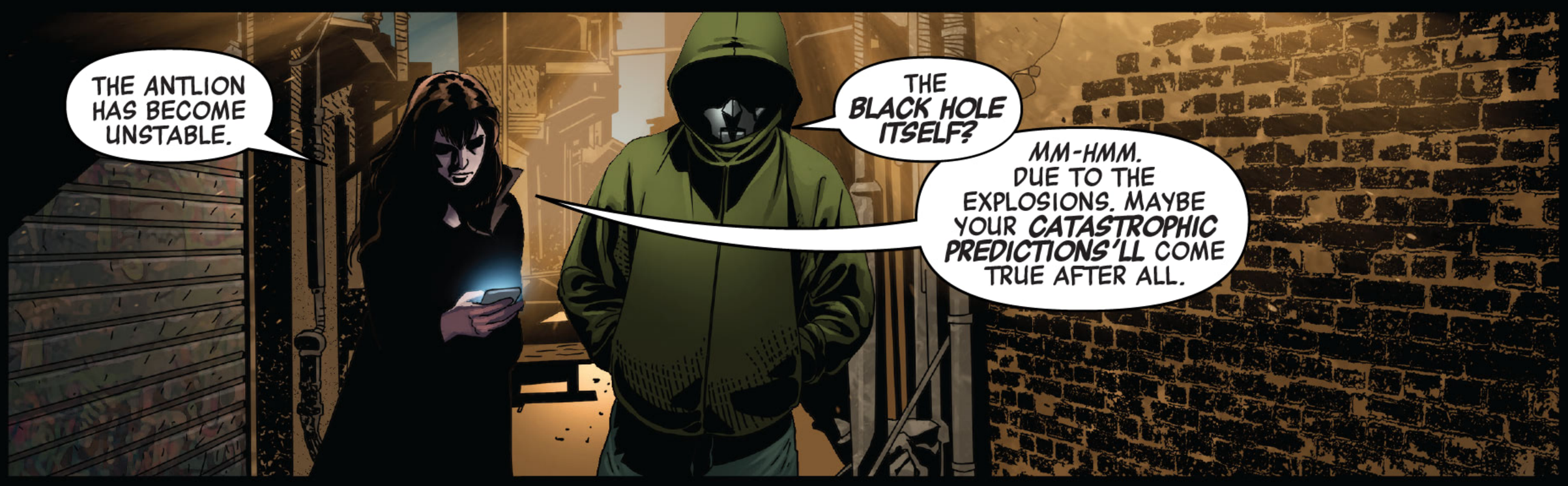

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO DIVINE THIS? LOOK INTO THE FUTURE AND SEE IF IT WERE TRUE?
MY POWERS ARE GREATLY DIMINISHED HERE... BUT I COULD TRY.

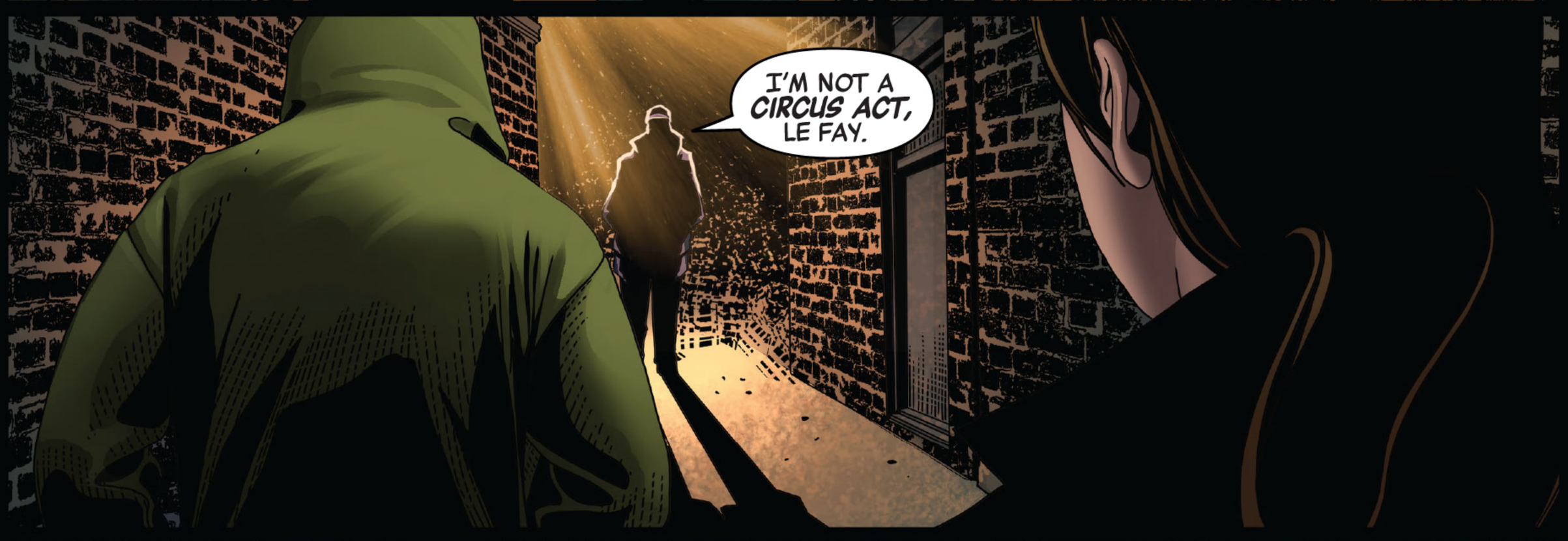
IT'S... HAZY... I FEEL... A...PEACE...BUT... I'M SORRY.
I DO KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP. HE'S WILLFUL BUT LEGITIMATE.
WE'LL NEED TO STRONG-ARM HIM A BIT...
...SO IT'LL BE HELPFUL IF YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE.
SORRY IT'S IN POOR SHAPE. NO IDEA WHERE I PULLED IT FROM...
IT'S FINE. I COULD USE SOME DIGNITY.
OH, VICTOR, DON'T YOU REALIZE...
...IT'S THIS THAT MAKES YOU TRULY INTERESTING.

SO RICHARDS IS FINALLY TAKING ME SERIOUSLY.
YOU WERE THE TOP AVAILABLE, DR. BRASHEAR.
"TOP AVAILABLE."

POORLY WORDED.
KNOWN ASSOCIATES OF DOOM IN THE AREA: MORGAN LE FAY--
RIGHT, SORCERY. I AVOID THAT KIND OF NONSENSE.
YOU MATCH DOOM IN INTELLECT. AND STRENGTH. ESPECIALLY SINCE HE'S WITHOUT ARMAMENTS--

YOU TRYING TO FLATTER ME?
NOT NEEDED. DR. RICHARDS RAN SIMULATIONS PITTING YOU AGAINST DOOM AND YOU WERE VICTORIOUS THREE OUT OF FIVE TIMES.
WHAT KIND OF SIMULATION?
CHESS.
...OKAY. WELL...I'LL STILL TAKE THOSE ODDS. TWO COLLEAGUES OF MINE DIED ON ANTLION STATION. FRIENDS.
I DON'T NEED HELP, ANDROID.
I'M COMING WITH YOU. I'M A MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
NO. YOU'RE NOT.
WELL. ONCE WE DEFEAT DOCTOR DOOM IN A SPECTACULAR TEAM-UP... I WILL BE.

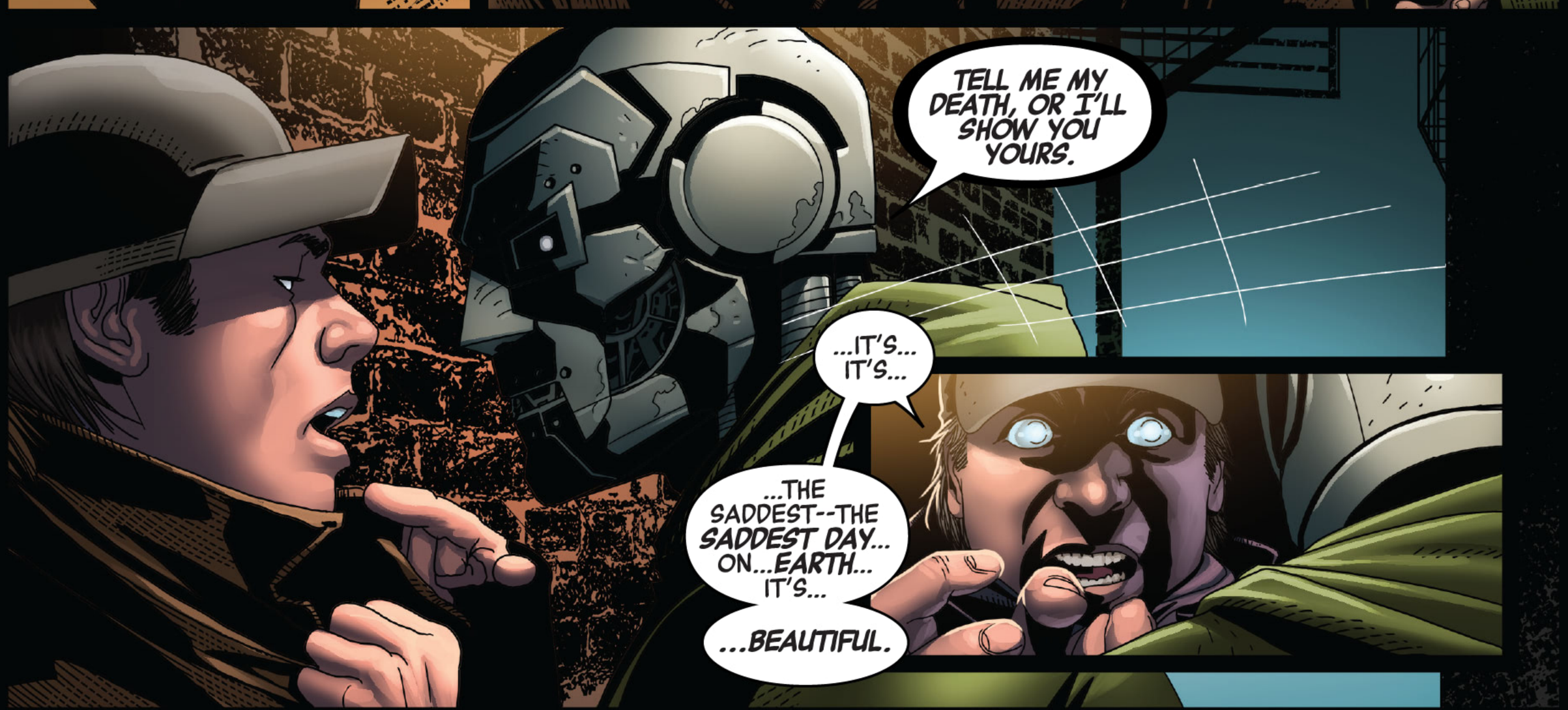

THE ANTLION HAS BECOME UNSTABLE.
THE BLACK HOLE ITSELF?
MM-HMM. DUE TO THE EXPLOSIONS. MAYBE YOUR CATASTROPHIC PREDICTIONS'LL COME TRUE AFTER ALL.


I'M NOT A CIRCUS ACT, LE FAY.

WHOA. DOOM. FOR REAL?
HOW DOES IT WORK?

I LOOK INTO YOUR EYES, I SEE HOW YOU DIE. THEY CALL ME THE WITNESS.

LOOK INTO MY EYES. TELL ME MY FUTURE. TELL ME MY DEATH.
WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?


TELL ME MY DEATH, OR I'LL SHOW YOU YOURS.
...IT'S... IT'S...
...THE SADDEST--THE SADDEST DAY... ON...EARTH... IT'S...
...BEAUTIFUL.

THAT'S... PREPOSTEROUS...
...I SAW IT...

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER--

KATA
AAACK

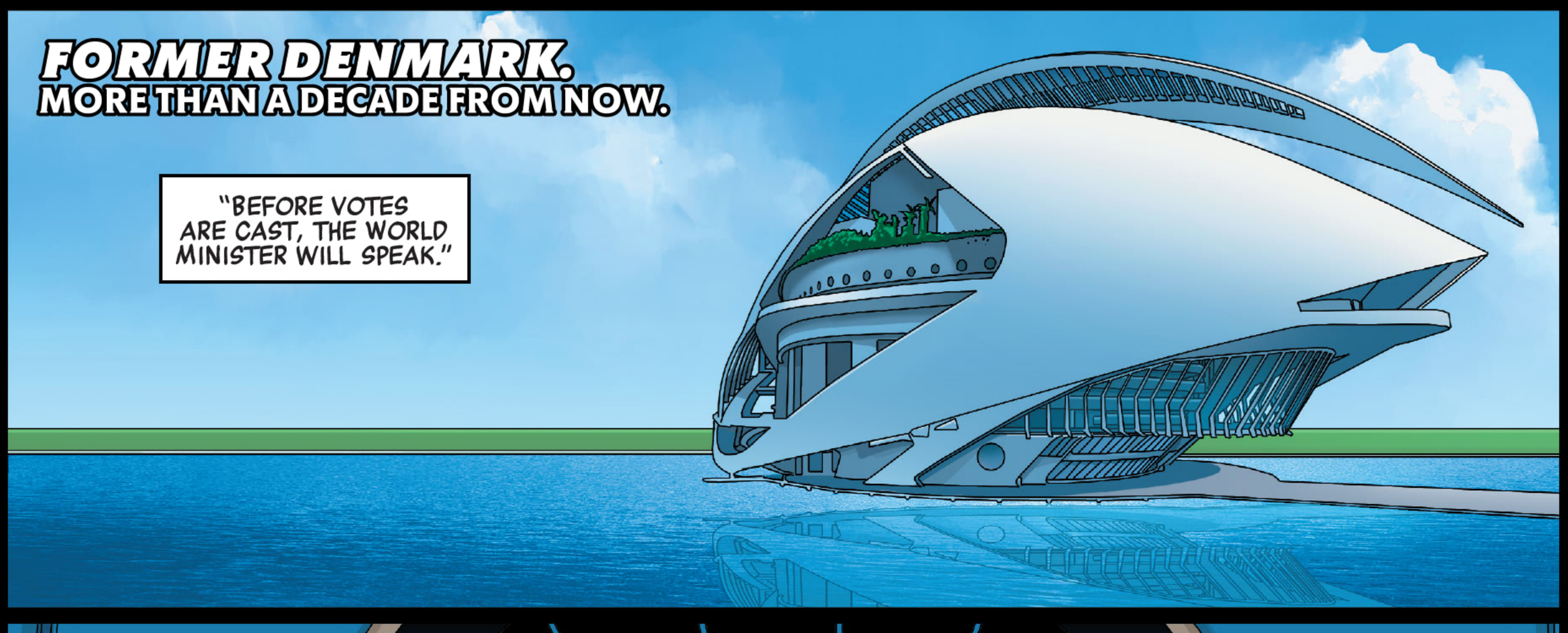
VICTOR?!
VICTOR!

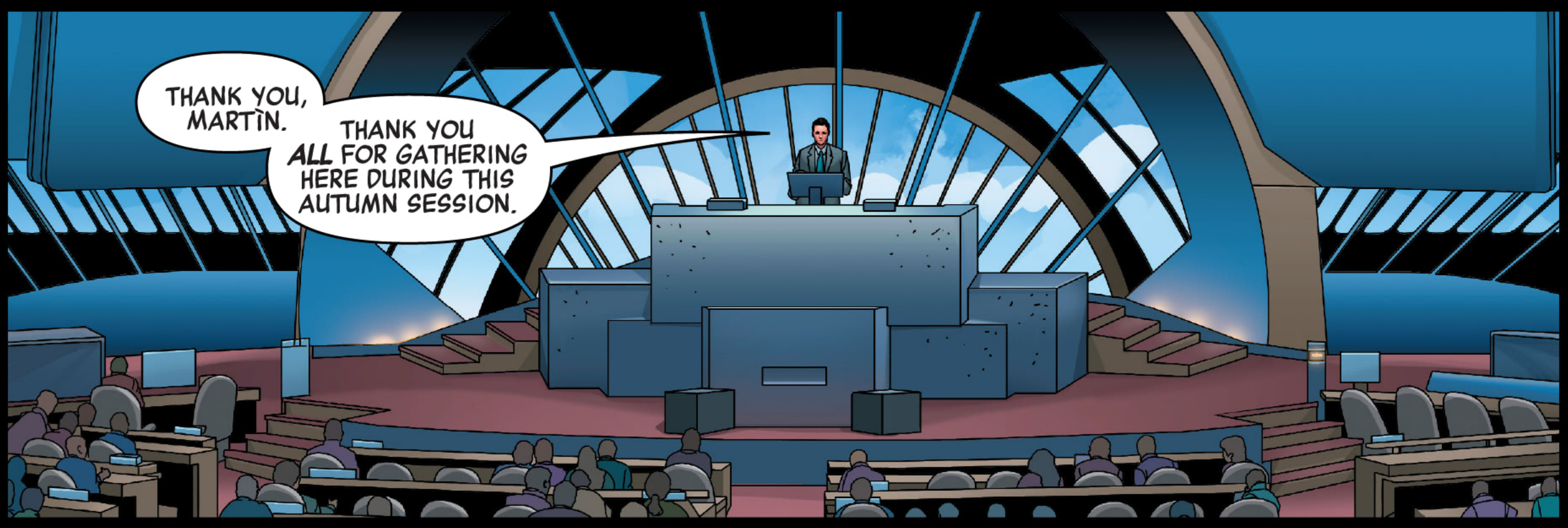
Mike Deodato Jr. & Romulo Fajardo Jr.

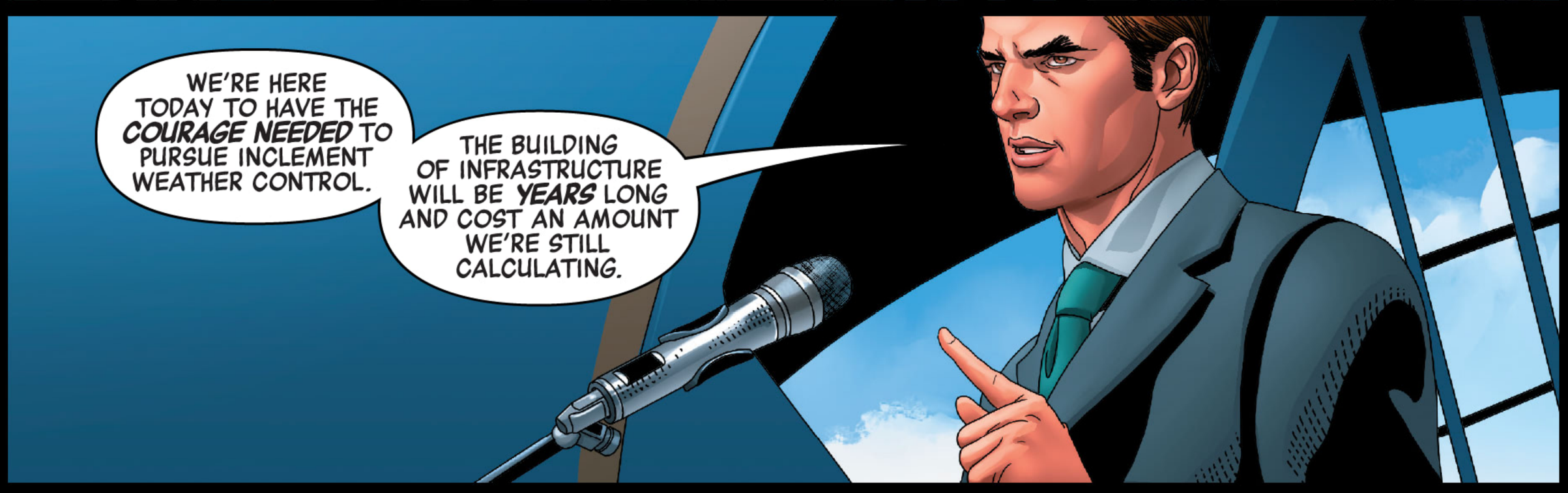
1 Variant

3

Death in the Afternoon


FORMER DENMARK.
MORE THAN A DECADE FROM NOW.
"BEFORE VOTES ARE CAST, THE WORLD MINISTER WILL SPEAK."

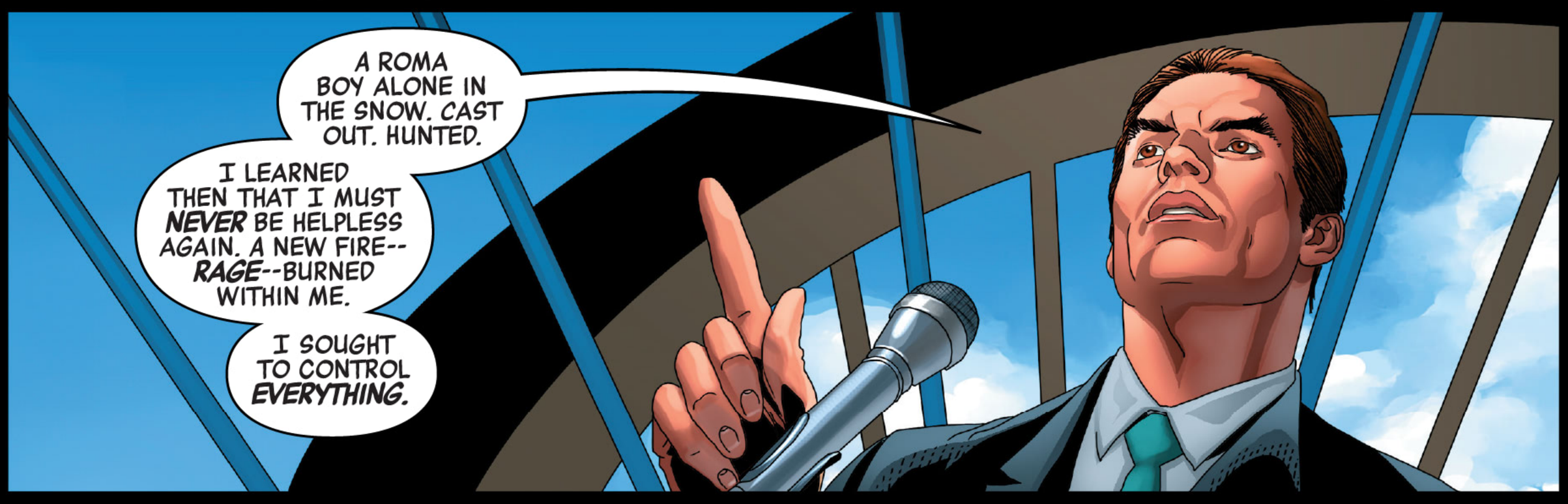

THANK YOU, MARTIN.
THANK YOU *ALL* FOR GATHERING HERE DURING THIS AUTUMN SESSION.

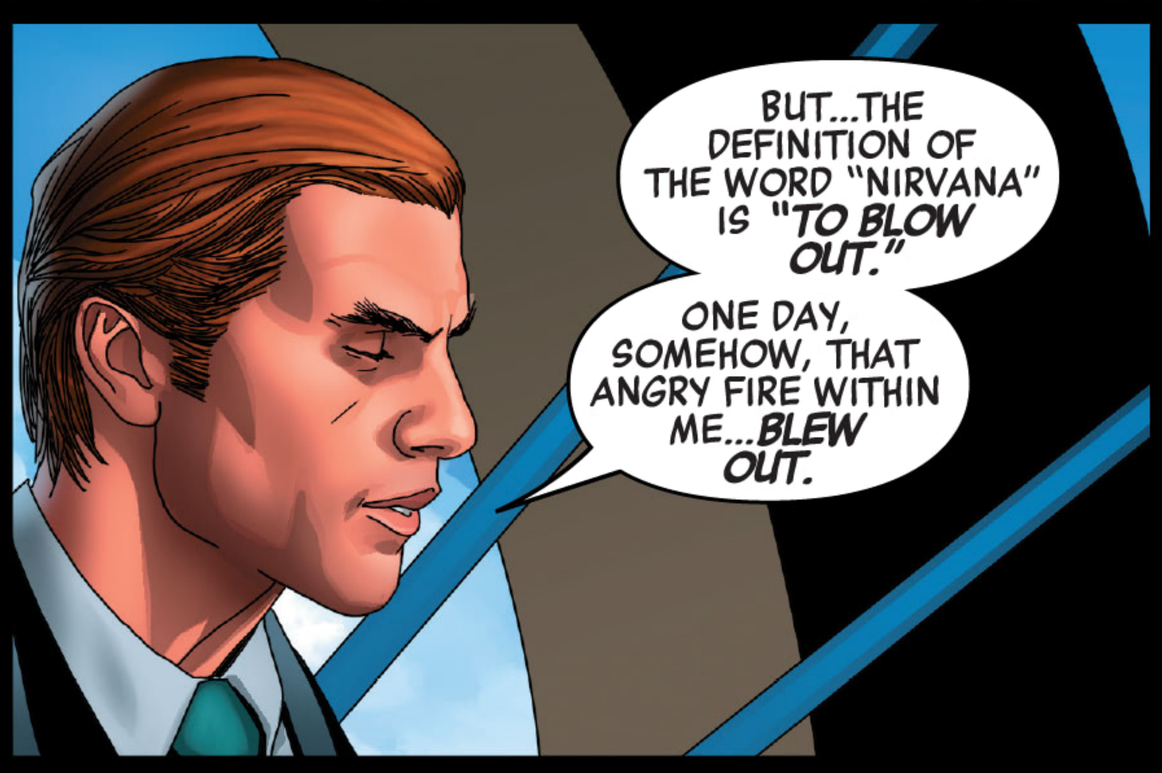

WE'RE HERE TODAY TO HAVE THE *COURAGE NEEDED* TO PURSUE INCLEMENT WEATHER CONTROL.
THE BUILDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE WILL BE *YEARS* LONG AND COST AN AMOUNT WE'RE STILL CALCULATING.

IT MAY SEEM *AUDACIOUS*--EVEN *BLASPHEMOUS*--TO TRY TO CONTROL THE ELEMENTS.

BUT HOW MANY HAVE SUFFERED FROM DROUGHTS? HURRICANES? FLOODING?
NOW, MY DETRACTORS HAVE ACCUSED ME OF PLAYING *GOD*.
I WELCOME THEIR CRITICISM. IT *HUMBLES* ME.
BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW WHAT I ONCE WAS.

I THINK MANY WOULD USE THE WORD "TYRANT."
I WAS... DISFIGURED...BUT THE SUFFERING I ENDURED WAS NO MATCH FOR THE SUFFERING I INFLICTED UPON THOUSANDS.


A ROMA BOY ALONE IN THE SNOW. CAST OUT. HUNTED.
I LEARNED THEN THAT I MUST NEVER BE HELPLESS AGAIN. A NEW FIRE--RAGE--BURNED WITHIN ME.
I SOUGHT TO CONTROL EVERYTHING.


BUT...THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD "NIRVANA" IS "TO BLOW OUT."
ONE DAY, SOMEHOW, THAT ANGRY FIRE WITHIN ME...BLEW OUT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS...NO ONE MOMENT. BUT...
...SUDDENLY... I WAS... RELIEVED.

I TURNED MYSELF OVER. IRON GATE FORTRESS. ONE PRISONER. ME. SIBERIA.
INSIDE, I BEGAN TO DREAM. SOLAR SKYSCRAPERS. MAGNETIC TRAINS. SEAWALLS. CLEAN FUEL. YEARS WENT BY QUICKLY.
I PLEDGED TO MAKE THEM OUR IDEAS. NOT JUST MINE.
DOOM IS MY NAME. BUT NO LONGER MY PURPOSE. THE CONTROL IS YOURS.
REMEMBER THAT AS YOU VOTE.

I AM DROWNING,
MY DEAR,
IN SEAS
OF FIRE.
VIRGINIA WOOLF, 1927.

VERY WELL.
HELL, THEN.

VICTOR. IT'S BEEN SOME TIME.
BUT LIKE THE LAST, I'M NOT HERE TO STAY, MEPHISTO.
AND WHO ARE YOU TO DECIDE SUCH A THING?

I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE.
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY.

I'M GLAD TO HAVE YOUR SOUL. FINALLY. FOREVER.

BAM

MY FUTURE ISN'T THIS. NOT YET.
SCIENTIST, SORCERER, CLAIRVOYANT? YOU MUST BE A GOD.

IT IS YOU WHO SAY THAT I AM.

BLASPHEMY TOO. BUT REST ASSURED, YOU ARE MY SUBJECT NOW--

HURK!

HOW CAN IT BE BLASPHEMY WHEN I'M TRULY MEANT TO SAVE ALL OF HUMANKIND?

HAHA HAHA!

WELL... YOU DID SAVE YOUR MOTHER'S SOUL FROM ME.

BUT YOU GAVE ME ONE IN RETURN. YOUR FIRST LOVE'S.

REMEMBER POOR VALERIA? YOU SACRIFICED HER TO HELL FOR MORE SELFISH POWER.

BUT...A DEVIL'S BARGAIN. CONVINCE VALERIA THAT YOU DESERVE YOUR LIFE...AND YOU MAY RETURN TO IT.

...VALERIA...

BAACHH
LATVERIA.
AMONG THE LIVING.
HOW MANY TROOPS?
TWO REGIMENTS. TANKS AND ARTILLERY.
WHAT OF NATO? THE U.N.?
THEY WON'T INVOLVE THEMSELVES, REGENT VICTORIOUS.
THEY WANT SYMKARIA TO TAKE US.
WITH DOOM GONE, THEY PLAN TO "STABILIZE THE REGION."
I'M ADJOURNING TO MY FLOOR. I MUST THINK ALONE.

BOOMM

IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN YOUR SPECIAL FORCES--
SPECIAL FORCES? NO, ZORA.
I'M YOUR PERSONAL GUILLOTINE.
HHYYYEEAAAA!
OOOHMMM
...GONE...

VALERIA! VALERIA, STOP!
HELL.
VALERIA, PLEASE!
VALERIA!
WAKOM
VALERIA.

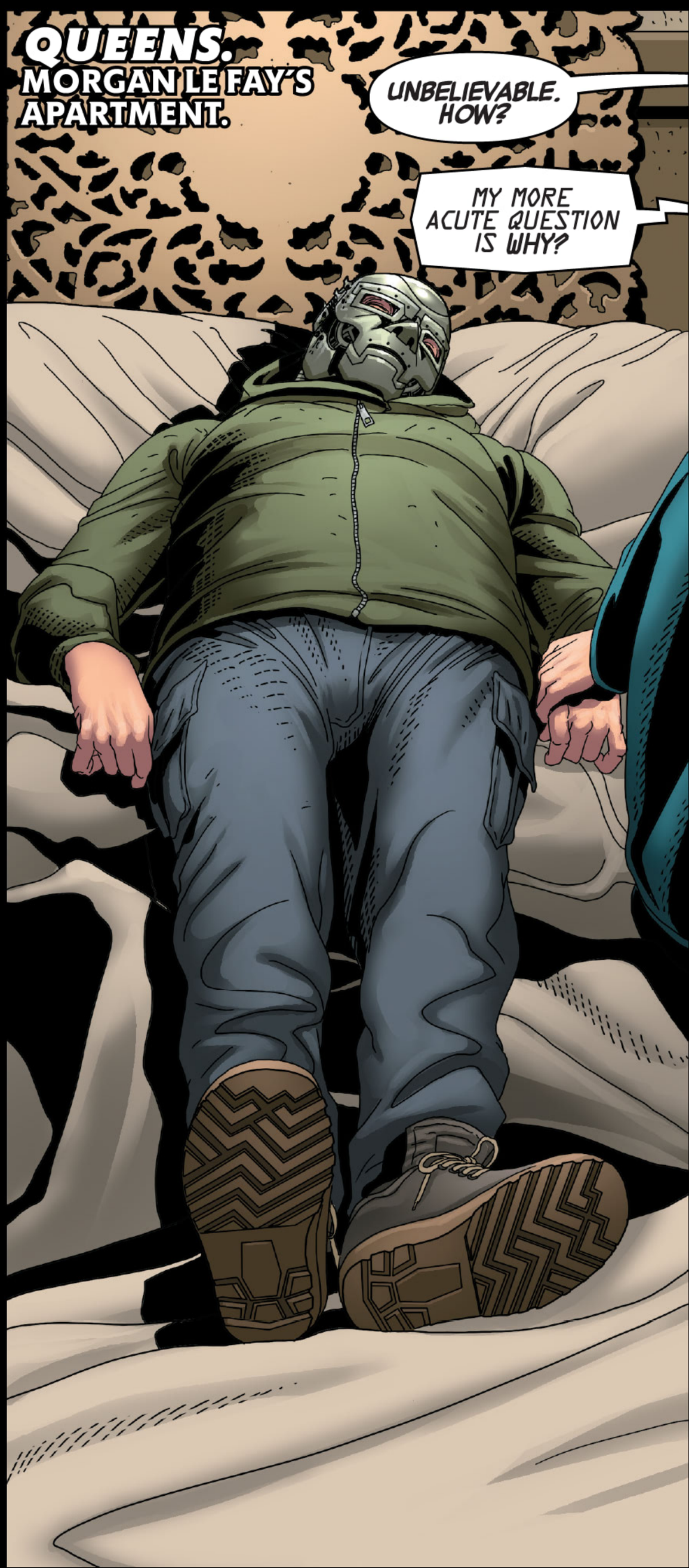
VALERIA, I MEAN YOU NO HARM--
YOU'VE TAKEN EVERYTHING FROM ME!
YOUR LOVE? YOU HAVE A MONSTER'S SOUL, VICTOR.
I HAD TO GROW STRONGER. I HAD TO SACRIFICE--
I'VE SEEN A FUTURE WHERE I...I'M REDEEMED. WHERE I...SAVE... EVERYONE.
EXCEPT ME.
FORGET YOUR DESTINY. DON'T BE FOOLED BY YOUR VISIONS.
BE WITH ME HERE. WE COULD BE TOGETHER AGAIN.
AMID DEVILS?
WE ARE DEVILS. YOU ARE. AND I AM.
BUT WE CAN LOVE EACH OTHER AGAIN, VICTOR. REDEEM YOURSELF WITH LOVE.
NO. I REFUSE THIS.
I MUST RETURN. I'VE SEEN--

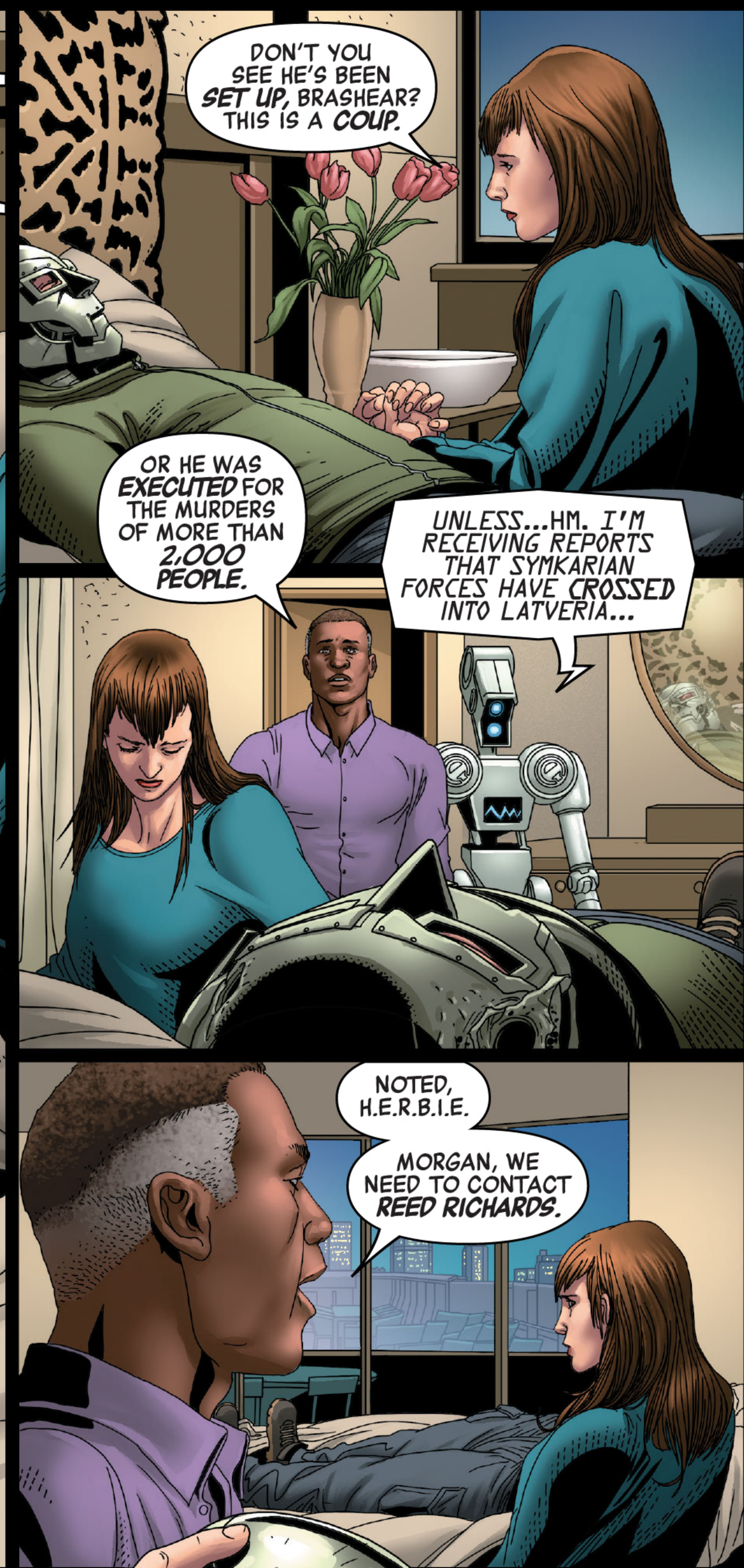
YOU'VE SEEN LIES!
I'VE SEEN YOUR CURSED VISIONS! I'VE SEEN YOU SAVE ALL OF MAN! BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU'RE MINE FOR ETERNITY!
HUMAN SUFFERING IS THE FOOD OF THE DAMNED! I WON'T LET YOU STARVE US!

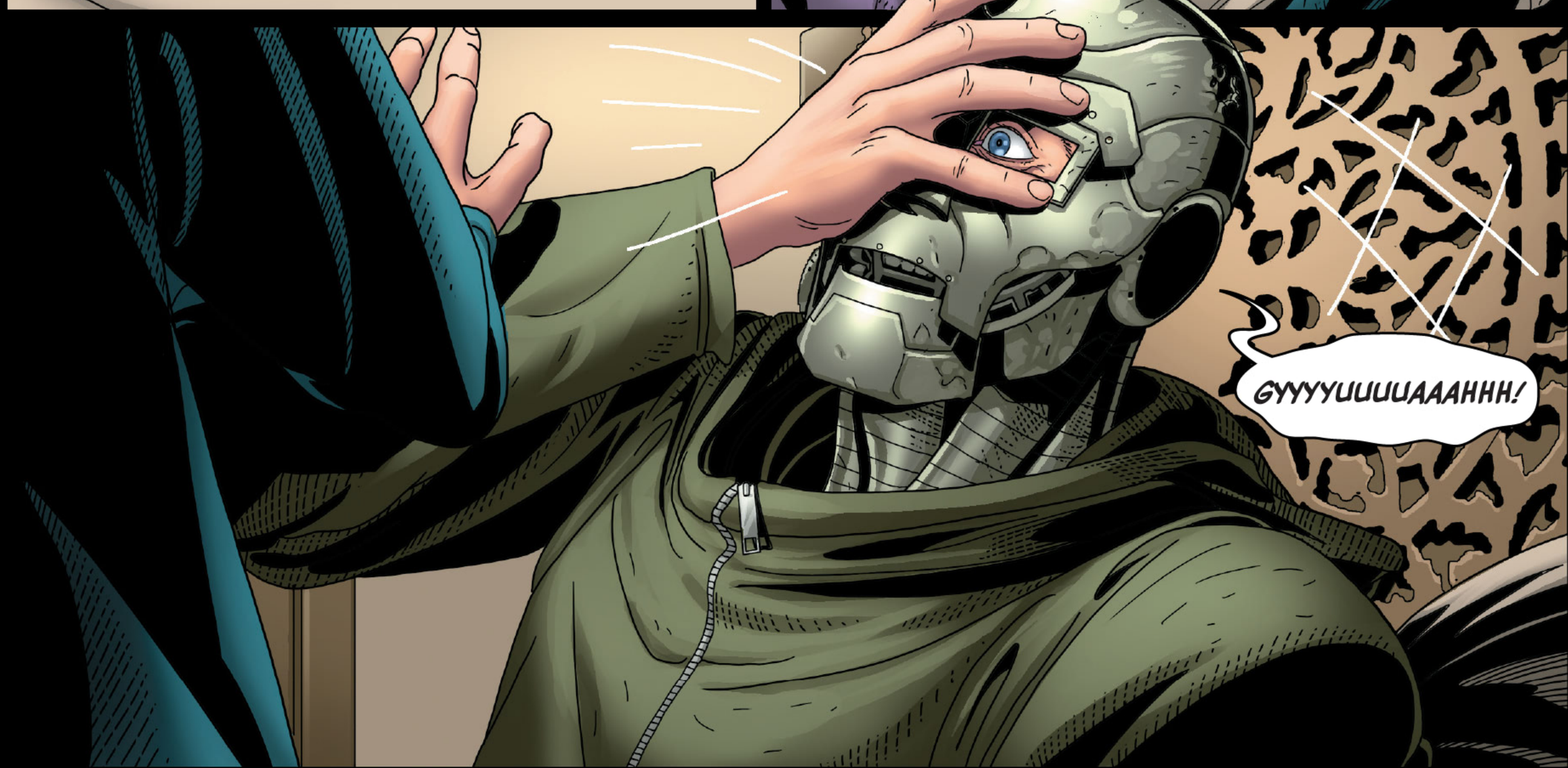
TRY TO STOP ME, DEMON. I'M ALREADY DEAD.
PAOWF

TSCHFF
EEEAA!
JOOIIINNNNN
EEEEEEEE
KRSSSHHHFFF
SSSSSSS

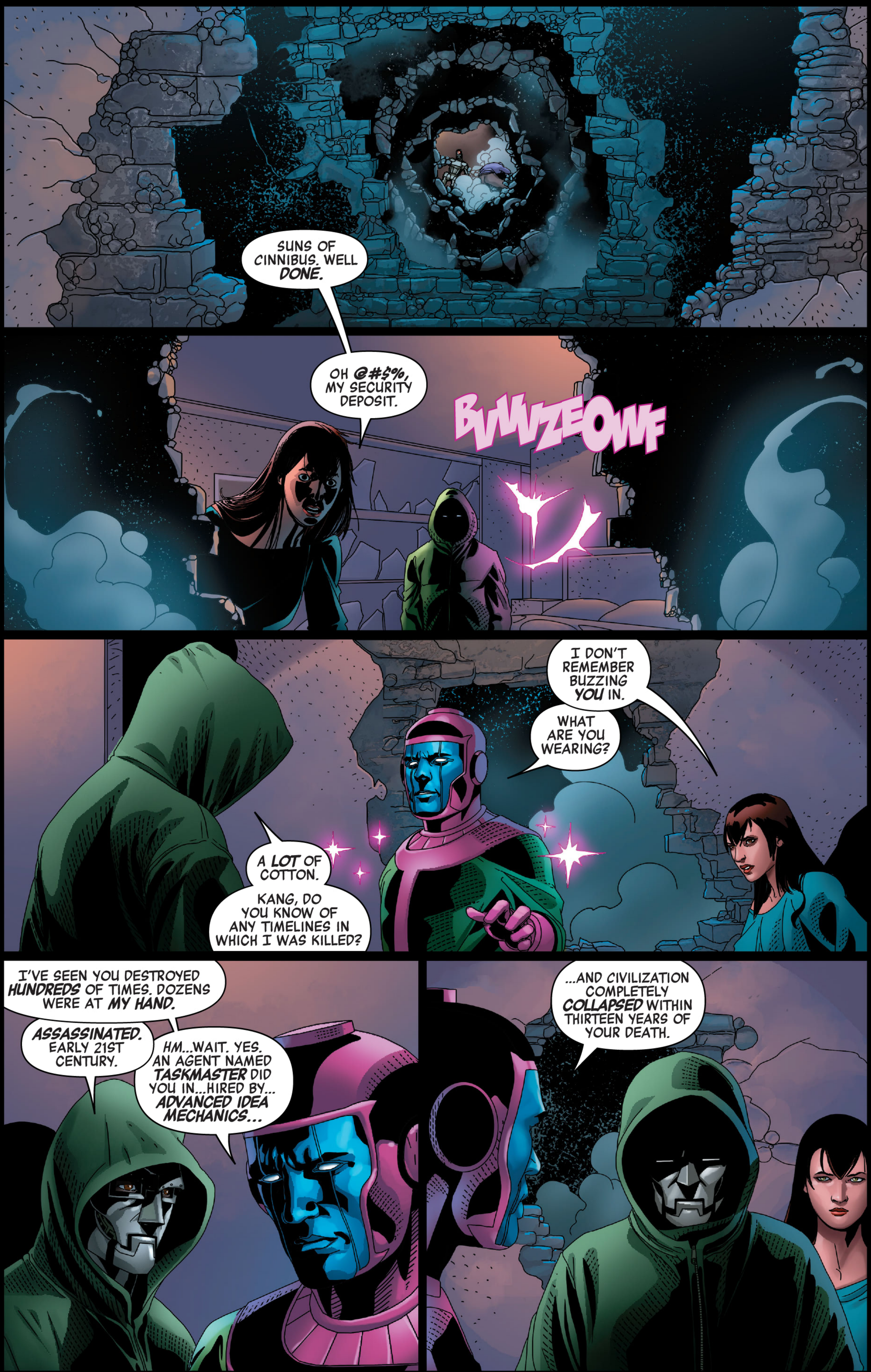
ENOUGH.
HE WILL RETURN TO HIS LIFE.
BUT...MISTRESS DEATH...MY FINAL GODDESS HE--
SPEAK AGAIN, AND I WILL SHOW YOU TRUE DEATH. NOTHINGNESS. THE VOID.
THEN YOU KNOW AS WELL. I MUST BE SENT BACK. TO SAVE ALL THINGS.
NO.
IT IS BECAUSE YOU WILL BECOME MY GREATEST SERVANT OF ALL.


QUEENS.
MORGAN LE FAY'S APARTMENT.
UNBELIEVABLE. HOW?
MY MORE ACUTE QUESTION IS WHY?


DON'T YOU SEE HE'S BEEN SET UP, BRASHEAR? THIS IS A COUP.
OR HE WAS EXECUTED FOR THE MURDERS OF MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE.
UNLESS...HM. I'M RECEIVING REPORTS THAT SYMKARIAN FORCES HAVE CROSSED INTO LATVERIA...
NOTED, H.E.R.B.I.E.
MORGAN, WE NEED TO CONTACT REED RICHARDS.


GYYYYUUUUAAAHHH!

SEVEN SUNS OF CINNIBUS!
BAATCHOOO


SUNS OF CINNIBUS. WELL DONE.
OH @#$%, MY SECURITY DEPOSIT.
BUUUZZEOWF
I DON'T REMEMBER BUZZING YOU IN.
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
A LOT OF COTTON.
KANG, DO YOU KNOW OF ANY TIMELINES IN WHICH I WAS KILLED?
I'VE SEEN YOU DESTROYED HUNDREDS OF TIMES. DOZENS WERE AT MY HAND.
ASSASSINATED. EARLY 21ST CENTURY.
HM...WAIT. YES. AN AGENT NAMED TASKMASTER DID YOU IN...HIRED BY... ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS...
...AND CIVILIZATION COMPLETELY COLLAPSED WITHIN THIRTEEN YEARS OF YOUR DEATH.

4

All Possible Worlds

ONE YEAR AGO.

HE DEAD?
NO. JUST HIGH.
CARRY HIM. DRAG HIM. WHATEVER.

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE?

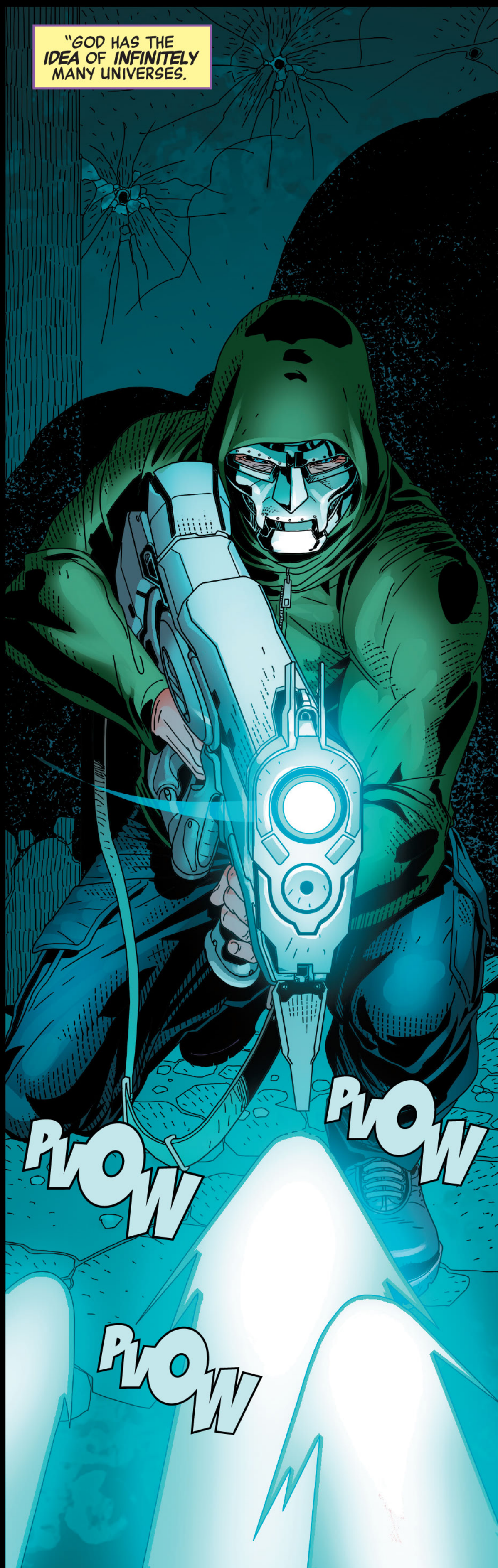
DIMITRI.
DIMITRI FORTUNOV.
GRANDSON OF VLADIMIR. NEPHEW OF ZORBA AND RUDOLFO. BASTARD OF TRISTIAN.
THE SOLE-- AND RIGHTFUL-- HEIR TO THE LATVERIAN THRONE.

NOW.
"YOU KNOW ABOUT HER. YOU'VE SEEN THIS FUTURE."
"I'VE DEDUCED IT AS TRUE. ALGORITHMICALLY."

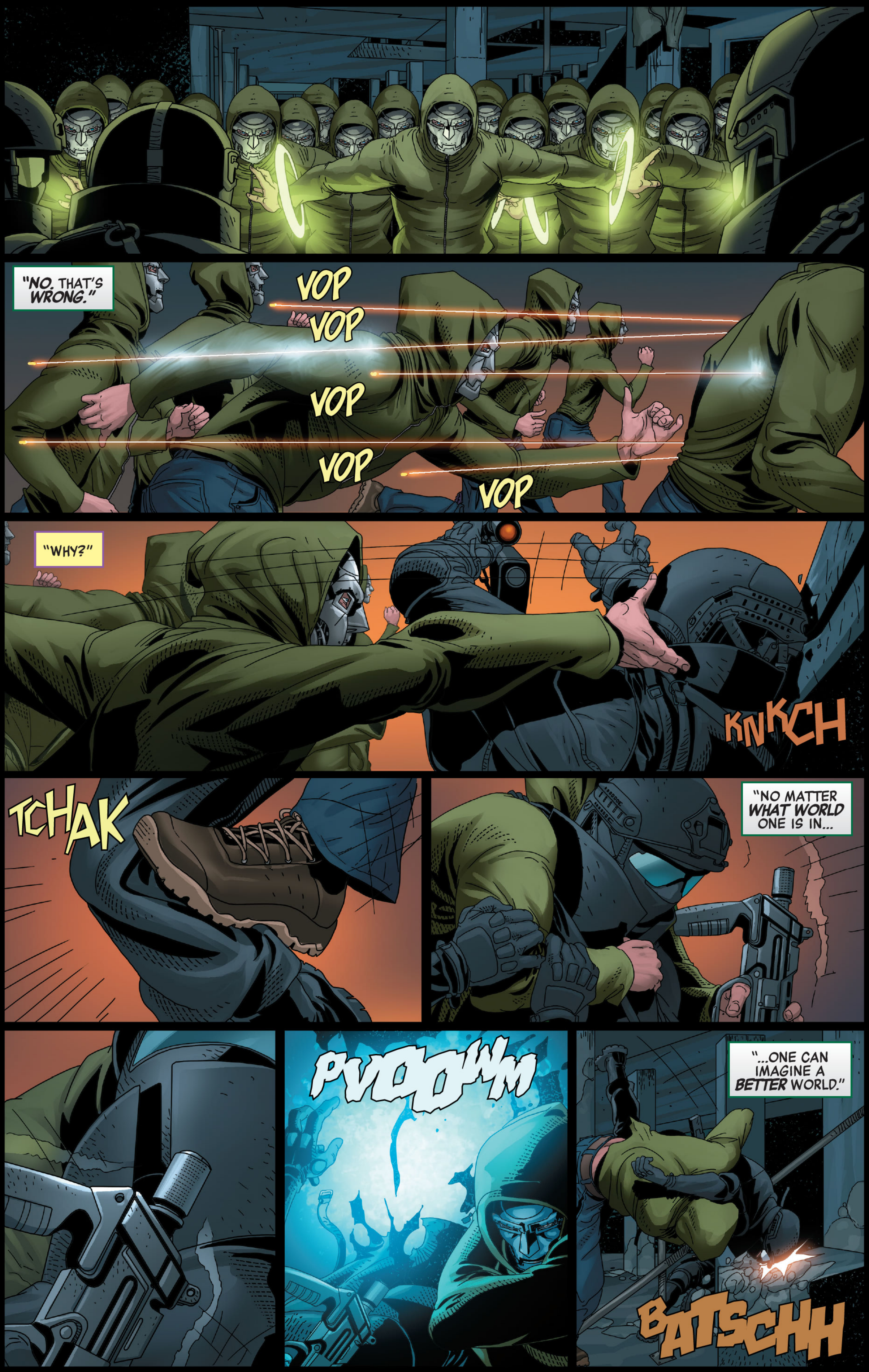
AMERICAN INK MANUFACTURERS
"SO YOU'VE SOLVED FOR IT. MY SINGULAR FATE?"
"YES."
A.I.M. LOBBY.
CRYSTALS OF CYNDRIARR.
"THEN IT IS TRUE."
"NO."
"EXPLAIN."
"THERE IS ONE WORLD, WITH A FUTURE NOT YET CERTAIN."

1ST FLOOR.
COMMS & ANALYTICS.
DING
YOU SEE THIS ENTRY ALARM?
"YES. FUTURES AS INFINITE THREADS."
"YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT THIS INCORRECTLY."
I WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOUR MANAGER.
"THE LAW OF DEPENDENT ARISING, THEN."
"IT IS CALLED 'MATHEMATICS.'"
PLOW
PLOW
PLOW
"COUNTLESS OCCURRENCES BUILD THE FUTURE."
WHERE IS TASKMASTER? HIS COMMANDER?
UPSTAIRS--
"INCORRECT. CORRECT ASSERTION: YOU ARE GOD."
"THE WORLD SEES ME AS A KILLER, A THIEF, A CRIMINAL."
"ST. ANSELM SAID OF GOD: 'A BEING THAN WHICH NO GREATER CAN BE CONCEIVED.'

"YOU BELIEVE YOUR SINS ARE THAT GREAT?"
"THE WORLD BELIEVES THEY ARE SINS."
"YOU CALL THEM VIRTUE."
22
KTCHUNK
"I WON'T TRY TO DIVINE INTENT. EVEN MY OWN."
"YOUR ONLY SIN IS THAT YOU WON'T ADMIT YOU'RE GOD."
"BUT I CAN CONCEIVE OF GREATER BEINGS THAN ME."
"WHO IS THIS GREATER BEING YOU CONCEIVE OF?"
22ND FLOOR.
CURRENTLY BEING REMODELED.
PVAOW
"THIS OTHER VERSION OF MYSELF."
"THIS FUTURE VERSION OF YOURSELF."
"HE'S CREATED SOME NEWER, BETTER WORLD."
PVAOW
PVAOW
PVAOW
"NO. HE'S SAVED THIS ONE."


"GOD HAS THE IDEA OF INFINITELY MANY UNIVERSES.
PLOW
PLOW
PLOW

ZWACK
"BUT ONLY ONE OF THEM CAN EXIST.
"GOD HAS REASON TO CHOOSE ONE THING OVER ANOTHER.
KTCHFFFF
FLAMES OF THE FALTINE.
YEEEAAAAAAAAA
"GOD IS GOOD.
GNN--
"THE UNIVERSE THAT GOD MAKES--THIS ONE--IS THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS."
IMAGES OF IKKON!


"NO. THAT'S WRONG."
VOP
VOP
VOP
VOP
VOP
"WHY?"
KNKCH
TCHAK
"NO MATTER WHAT WORLD ONE IS IN...
PVOOWM
"...ONE CAN IMAGINE A BETTER WORLD."
BATSCHH

"THE PROBLEM OF NO BEST WORLDS."
"THE REALITY OF NO BEST WORLDS.
DOOM!
YOU DIDN'T SIGN IN AT THE FRONT DESK.
TASKMASTER. WHO HIRED A.I.M. TO HAVE YOU KILL ME?
LOOK AT US, TWO ARMORED KILLERS. BUT...YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR SUNDAY BEST.
"I KNOW YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THIS REALITY. JUST AS I'M CERTAIN YOU'VE PREDICTED THIS ENTIRE CONVERSATION."

THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU'LL COME.
SOUTHERN LATVERIA, SINTIJA RIVER CROSSING.
TRAVERSE FARTHER AND YOU WILL PAY IN SYMKARIAN BLOOD.
WE DON'T WANT A WAR, <VLADYKA>.*
*LATVERIAN FOR "RULER"... WITH A SYMKARIAN ACCENT.
PRIME MINISTER SABLINOVA.
SYMKARIA DOES NOT WANT INVASION, VICTORIOUS.
BUT IT DOES SUPPORT YOUR TRUE RULER.
HIS MAJESTY DIMITRI FORTUNOV, DIRECT DESCENDANT OF VLADIMIR AND LATVERIA'S RIGHTFUL DYNASTY.
GREETINGS, REGENT.

I WANT A PEACEFUL TRANSITION.
YOU'RE SOME BASTARD WHO WAS SHOT DEAD--
DESTINY HAD OTHER PLANS.
YOUR DESTINY IS TO DIE HERE, ALONG WITH YOUR ARMY.
LISTEN TO MY UNCLE. HE'S THE PRIME MINISTER--
BAKOOOWMM
I SEE SILVER SABLE HAS TOUCHED MY RIVER'S SHORE.

CRAK
ZORA. YOU HAVE NO ARMY. I WON'T LET YOU KILL MY PEOPLE.
I WON'T HAND LATVERIA TO ANYONE.
I'M CONFUSED MYSELF...WE MUST FIND DOOM. BOTH OF US.

A.I.M. 22ND FLOOR.
"THE FUTURE YOU SEE--THAT I'VE SEEN--IS UTOPIC. PERFECT."
GIVE IT UP. LET YOURSELF DIE.
"NO. I'VE LISTENED TO HIM. THIS FUTURE VERSION OF ME.

I JUST RETURNED FROM DEATH. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING BACK.
"HE YET STILL IMAGINES A BETTER WORLD THAN HIS. HE'S NOT GOD--"

AAAAAHHH...
"NO. BUT YOU ARE GOD. RIGHT NOW."

YOU SURVIVED A HEADSHOT...SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WHOLE HEAD.
"HOW?"

"GOD CHOOSES ONE THING OVER ANOTHER.
PAOWWWWNG

"YOUR LIFE IS *ALL* FACETS. NOT *ONE* FUTURE.

KAKUNG

"AT PRESENT, YOU ARE *ALL* POSSIBLE FUTURES. JUST LIKE *KANG*."

"KANG IS NOT GOD."

"BECAUSE HE MAKES NO *CHOICE*."

THAT MASK OF YOURS...IS OF *INFERIOR* QUALITY.

WHO HIRED A.I.M. TO KILL ME?

I DON'T *CARE*...

"I DON'T KNOW HOW TO *BECOME* THIS OTHER VICTOR."

AAAAGGGHH!

TELL ME THE CODENAME OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT.

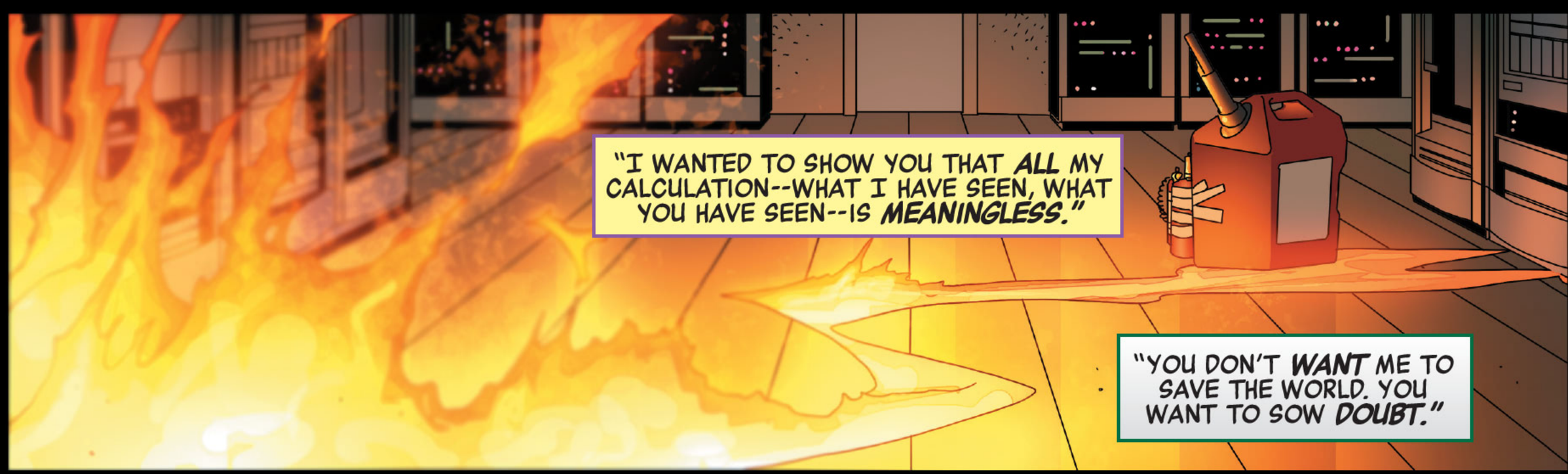
PEANUT BUTTER.

AAAAGGGHHH!!!!!

FRUZSINA...

....FRUZSINA...
"GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING."
"I ONLY KNOW WHAT I'VE SEEN WITH MY EYES."
"THEN OPEN THEM."

IF THE INSTABILITY OF THIS BLACK HOLE CONTINUES, WE'LL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO DEPEND ON PHYSICS.
I MEAN REALITY AS WE KNOW IT WILL BEGIN TO CHANGE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ADAM?
WILL PIZZA BEGIN TO TASTE DIFFERENTLY?
"WHEN WE BEGAN YOU SAID YOU'D DEDUCED THIS FUTURE MATHEMATICALLY.
"BUT THEN YOU SAID I WAS GOD AND THAT THIS FUTURE WAS NOT CERTAIN.
"I ARGUED THAT THERE IS NO BEST POSSIBLE WORLD. THAT THERE ARE MANY OUTCOMES.
PROJECT NAME: FRUZSINA -- DOWNLOADING...
"WHICH IS WHAT YOU WANTED ME TO DO. YOU PLAYED DEVIL'S ADVOCATE.
"YOU WANTED ME TO SEE INFINITE PATHS.
"YOU WANT ME TO REJECT THIS FUTURE."

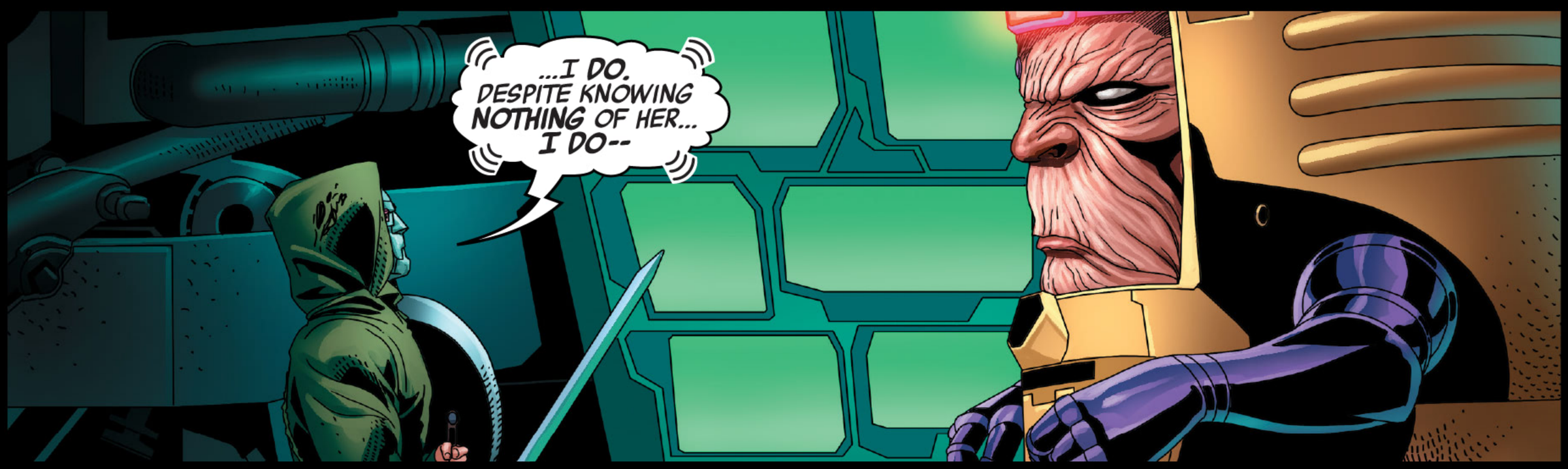

"I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THAT ALL MY CALCULATION--WHAT I HAVE SEEN, WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN--IS MEANINGLESS."
"YOU DON'T WANT ME TO SAVE THE WORLD. YOU WANT TO SOW DOUBT."

"NO, VICTOR. I WANT YOU TO REALIZE IT WON'T HAPPEN ON ITS OWN."

A.I.M.
DOOM...?
HAS TO BE. C'MON, H.E.R.B.I.E.

75TH FLOOR.
A.I.M. MASTER CONTROL.
I HAVE FINALLY FAILED TO UNDERSTAND.

A GOD... CHOOSES. ONE...OVER THE OTHER.
YOU ARE GOD. THEREFORE, YOU MUST CHOOSE.
THIS WOMAN. FRUZSINA. DO YOU LOVE HER?

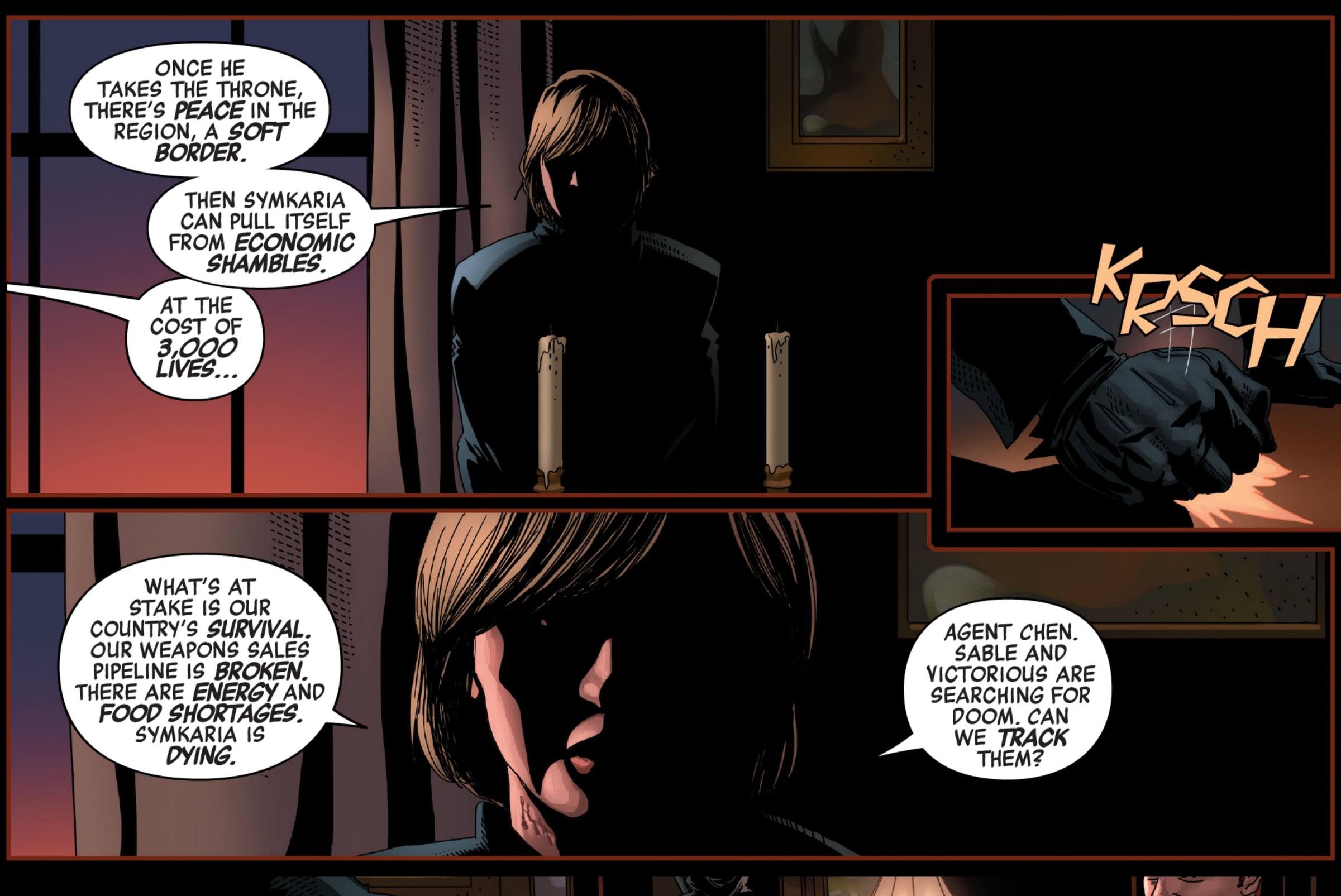

...I DO. DESPITE KNOWING NOTHING OF HER... I DO--

BZZZEEOOOM

ALL YOUR CALCULATION IS MEANINGLESS, M.O.D.O.K.
GANNZZ
NO, I FORESAW THIS...I ALLOWED THIS...

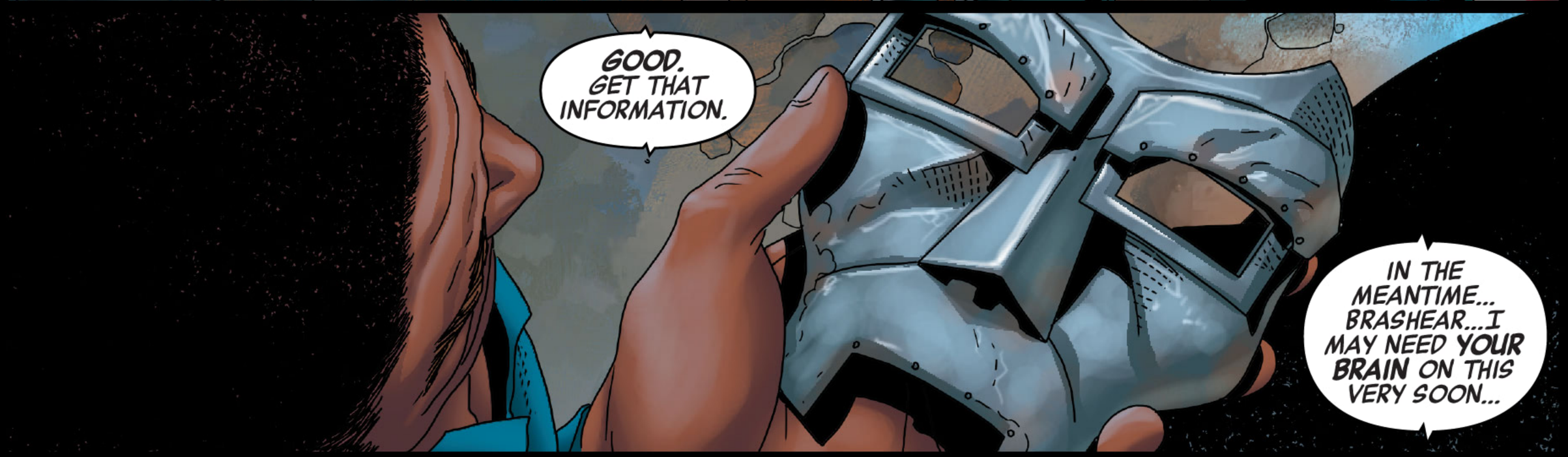
NAAAHGGH...
...SO THAT YOU WOULD CHOOSE...TO FIGHT... CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE...AND MAKE THIS BETTER WORLD...COME TRUE...

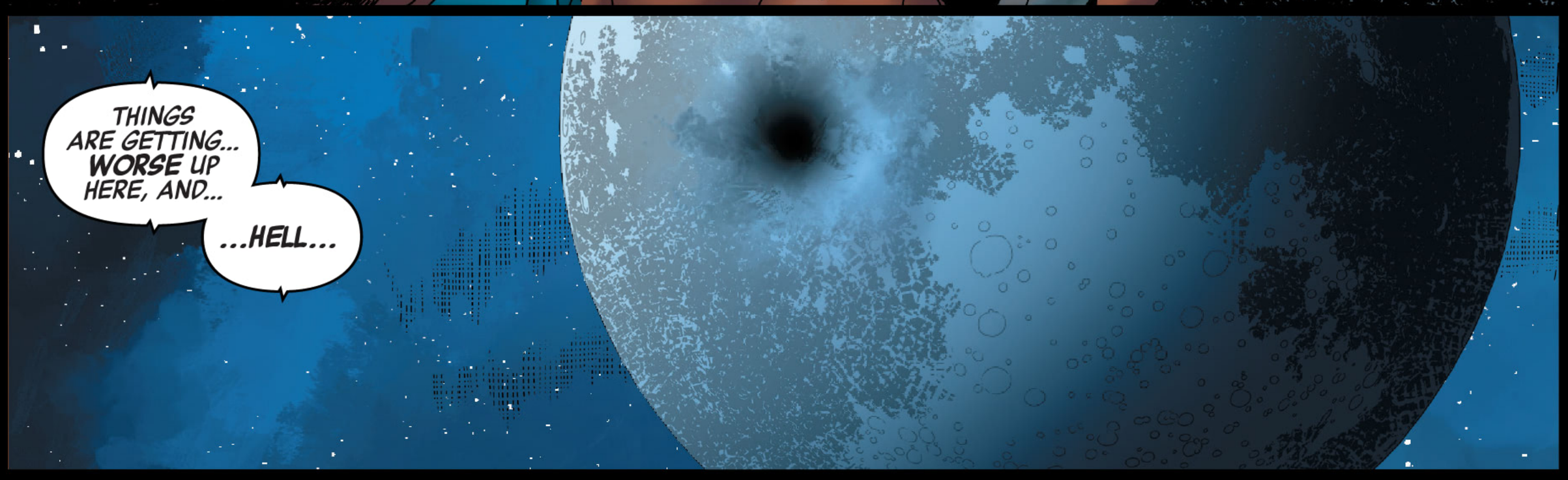
VICTORIOUS WILL CONTINUE TO BE A THORN IN OUR SIDE.
BECAUSE THE ASSASSINATION FAILED. AS DID DOOM'S ARREST--
DON'T LAY THAT AT MY FEET. THE WOMAN IS IMBUED WITH COSMIC ENERGY--
NOTHING HAS BEEN JEOPARDIZED. DIMITRI HAS THE APPROVAL OF THE E.U., THE U.N., THE U.S. NOTHING PUBLICLY, BUT...

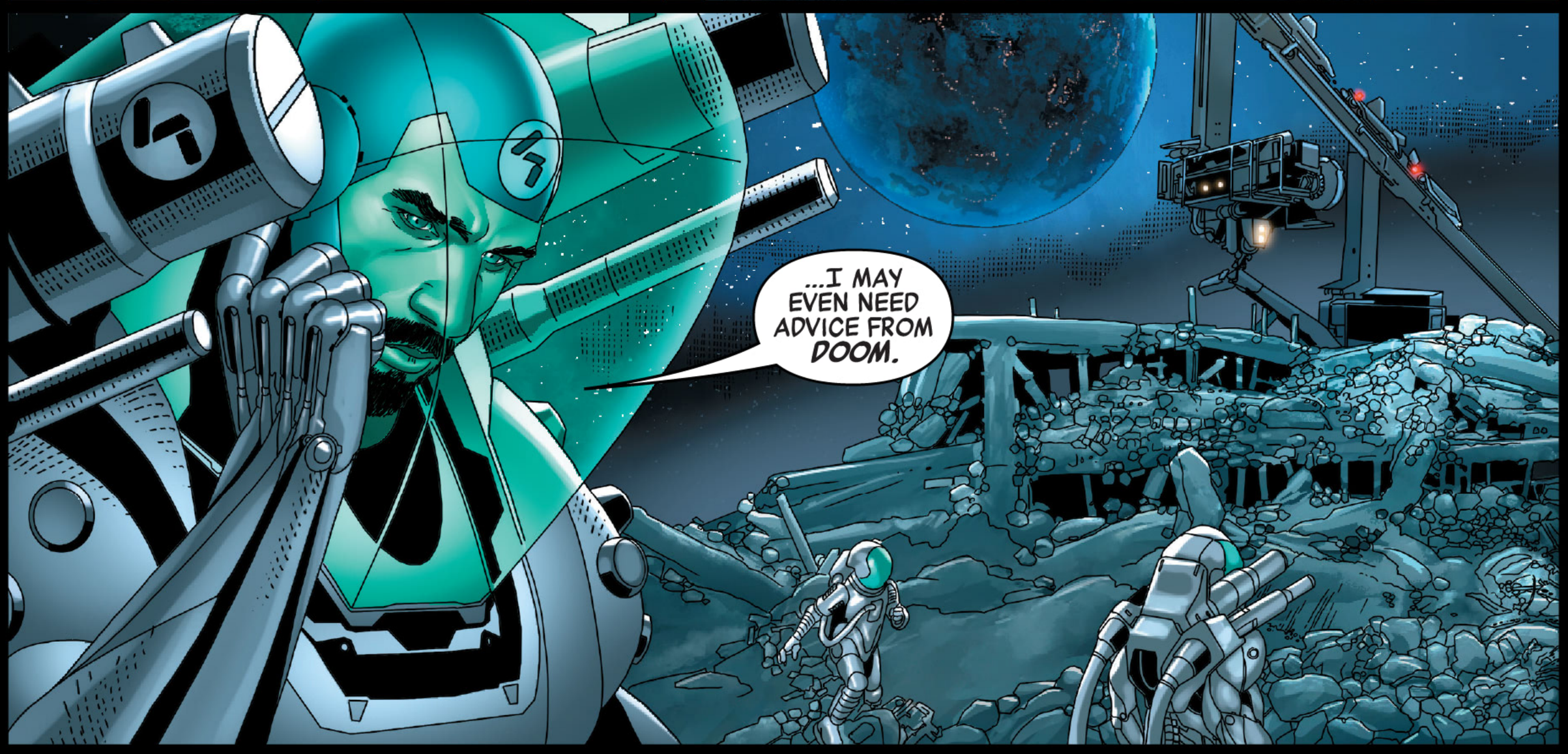

ONCE HE TAKES THE THRONE, THERE'S PEACE IN THE REGION, A SOFT BORDER.
THEN SYMKARIA CAN PULL ITSELF FROM ECONOMIC SHAMBLES.
AT THE COST OF 3,000 LIVES...
KRSCH
WHAT'S AT STAKE IS OUR COUNTRY'S SURVIVAL. OUR WEAPONS SALES PIPELINE IS BROKEN. THERE ARE ENERGY AND FOOD SHORTAGES. SYMKARIA IS DYING.
AGENT CHEN. SABLE AND VICTORIOUS ARE SEARCHING FOR DOOM. CAN WE TRACK THEM?

WE'LL USE WILD PACK RESOURCES TO FOLLOW.
GOOD. STAY CLOSE. ONCE THEY FIND HIM, WE KILL DOOM.
AND HIS COSMIC PET.

DOOM IS GONE. FRANKLY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S UP TO.
THERE'S MORE AT PLAY HERE. YOU NEED TO STAY ON HIM.
TASKMASTER'S BEEN NEARLY CRIPPLED. HE KNOWS SOMETHING.


GOOD. GET THAT INFORMATION.
IN THE MEANTIME... BRASHEAR...I MAY NEED YOUR BRAIN ON THIS VERY SOON...


THINGS ARE GETTING... WORSE UP HERE, AND...
...HELL...


...I MAY EVEN NEED ADVICE FROM DOOM.

5

Doctor Victor, Fruzsina & the Monster

IT'S GROWING *LOUDER* NOW. HAPPENING *ALL THE TIME.* AND IT WON'T *STOP.*

IT FEELS AS REAL AS *MY OWN* LIFE.

I *PREFER* IT.

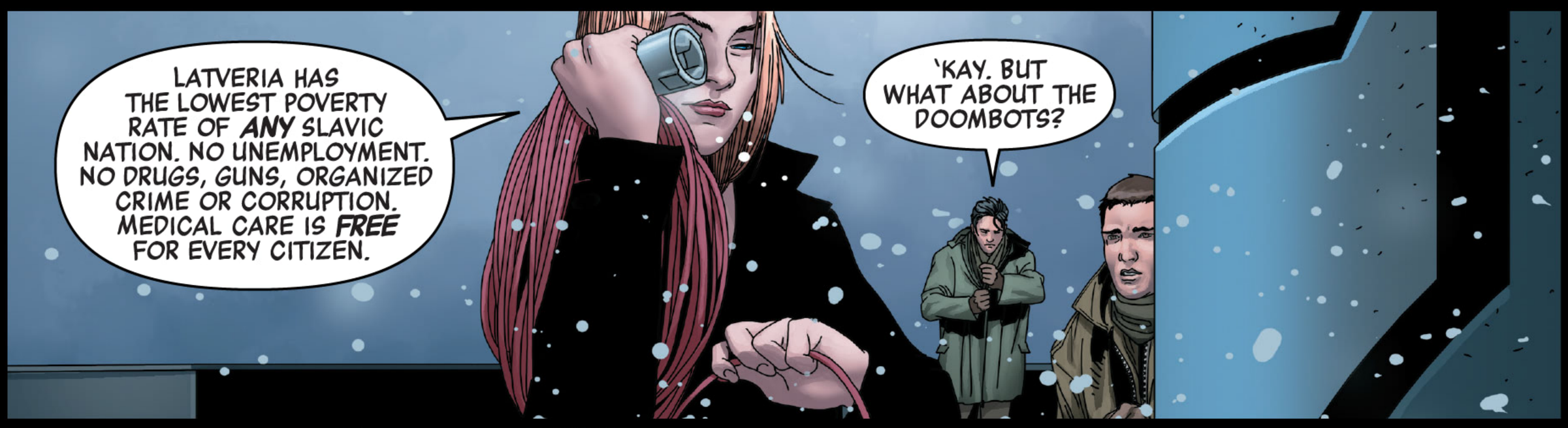
I WOULD *CHOOSE* IT.

BUT I DON'T KNOW *HOW.*

THE WORLD IS...

...MADDENING.

LIBERTY ISLAND.
"I WISHED TO MAKE IT RAIN, BUT NOW IT'S SNOWING."
WE'LL STORE THE GEAR AND RETURN ONCE THE STORM PASSES.
MAYBE WE'RE JUST SO GREAT AT IT WE STARTED A BLIZZARD.
CLOUD SEEDING IS NOT AN EXACT SCIENCE. OUR JOB IS TO MAKE IT ONE.
COOPER, BE CAREFUL--THE SILVER IODIDE, PLEASE.
DR. MARKOVICH... YOUR ACCENT. WHAT IS THAT? SERBIAN? CROATIAN?
LATVERIAN.
NO WONDER YOU'RE IN THE STATES. THAT METAL MANIAC PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE MUCH USE FOR METEOROLOGY.
UNLESS IT'S TO, LIKE, CREATE AN ICE STORM INSIDE THE BAXTER BUILDING.

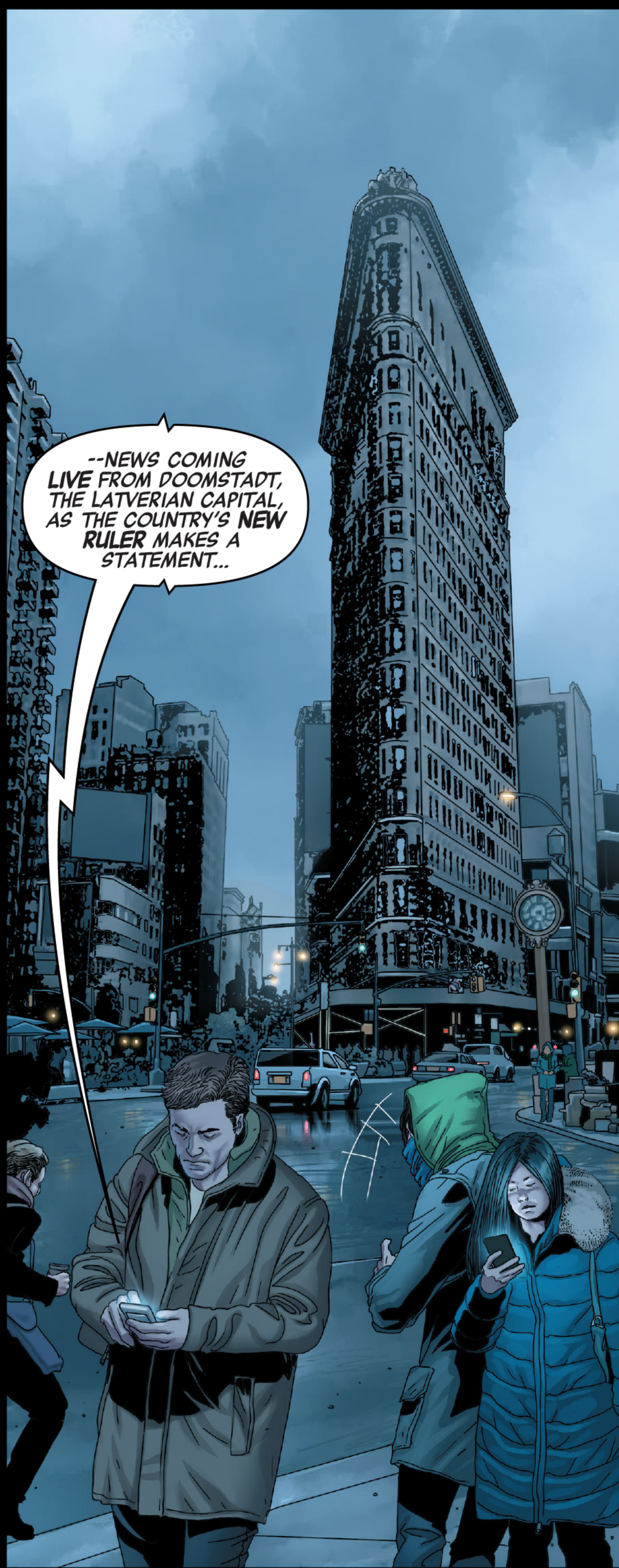

LATVERIA HAS THE LOWEST POVERTY RATE OF ANY SLAVIC NATION. NO UNEMPLOYMENT. NO DRUGS, GUNS, ORGANIZED CRIME OR CORRUPTION. MEDICAL CARE IS FREE FOR EVERY CITIZEN.
'KAY. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DOOMBOTS?

WHAT ABOUT THE DOOMBOTS, LEO?

I DON'T MEAN TO OFFEND, DOCTOR...
YOU KNOW, HITLER BUILT THE AUTOBAHN. BUT HE WAS ALSO A MASS MURDERER.

THE LAW OF SEDITION AND RENDITION.
"ANY LATVERIAN CITIZEN FOUND GUILTY OF SEDITIOUS LANGUAGE AGAINST THE STATE IS SUBJECT TO RENDITION AND IMPRISONMENT."

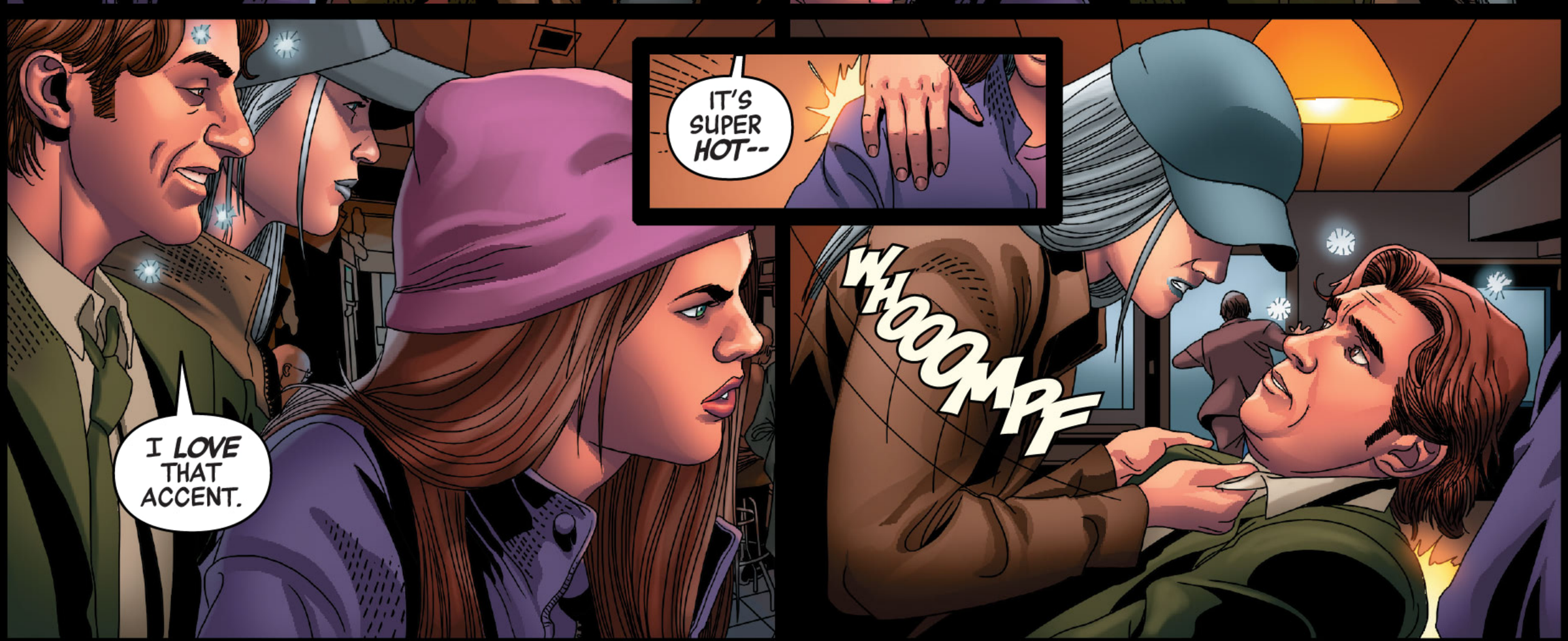
I'M OFF TO NORTH BROTHER ISLAND TO CHECK THE SECOND GENERATOR.
I CAN HANDLE IT ALONE.


--NEWS COMING LIVE FROM DOOMSTADT, THE LATVERIAN CAPITAL, AS THE COUNTRY'S NEW RULER MAKES A STATEMENT...

THIS WILL BE AN ERA OF LATVERIAN PEACE, OF OPEN BORDERS AND COOPERATION...
THE FORTUNOV DYNASTY AGAIN OVERSEES THESE LANDS. WE LEAVE CRUEL DICTATORSHIP IN OUR PAST.
HEY!
SNATCH
THE E.U. AND U.N. ARE ALREADY WELCOMING KING DMITRI FORTUNOV, AND SYMKARIA HAS WITHDRAWN TROOPS.
KRTSCHH

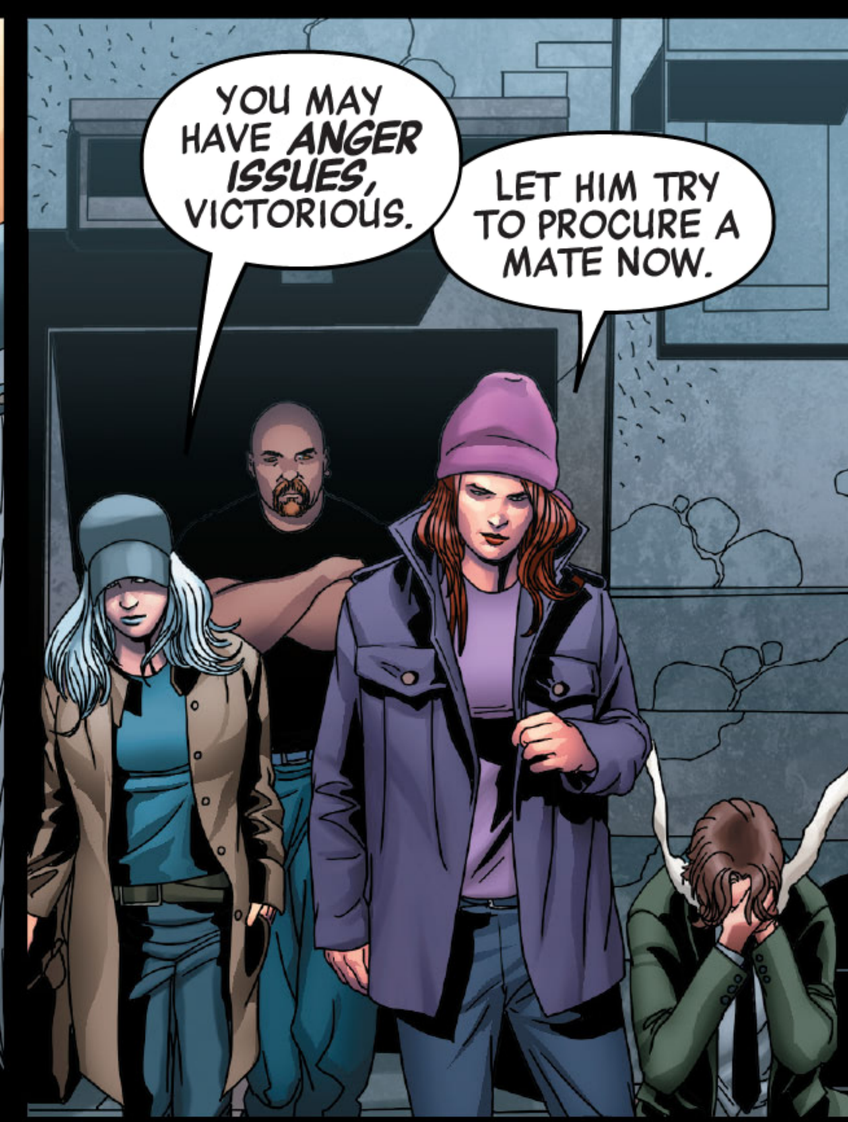
HOWEVER, VICTOR VON DOOM'S WHEREABOUTS REMAIN UNKNOWN.
YOU CONVINCED ME TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES WITH YOU TO LOOK FOR DOOM, AND DMITRI SEIZED THE THRONE. I'VE BETRAYED DOOM, SILVER. AT YOUR BEHEST.
STOP IT, ZORA.

YOU'RE PART OF THIS SYMKARIAN COUP, AREN'T YOU?
RIDICULOUS.
HOW'S IT GOIN', LADIES? LET US BUY YOU A ROUND.
NO, THANK YOU.


I LOVE THAT ACCENT.
IT'S SUPER HOT--
WHOOMPF

AAAAAAAAAAAGGH--
WE SAID, "NO, THANK YOU."

HEY! CUT THAT $%@ OUT! I'M CALLIN' THE COPS!

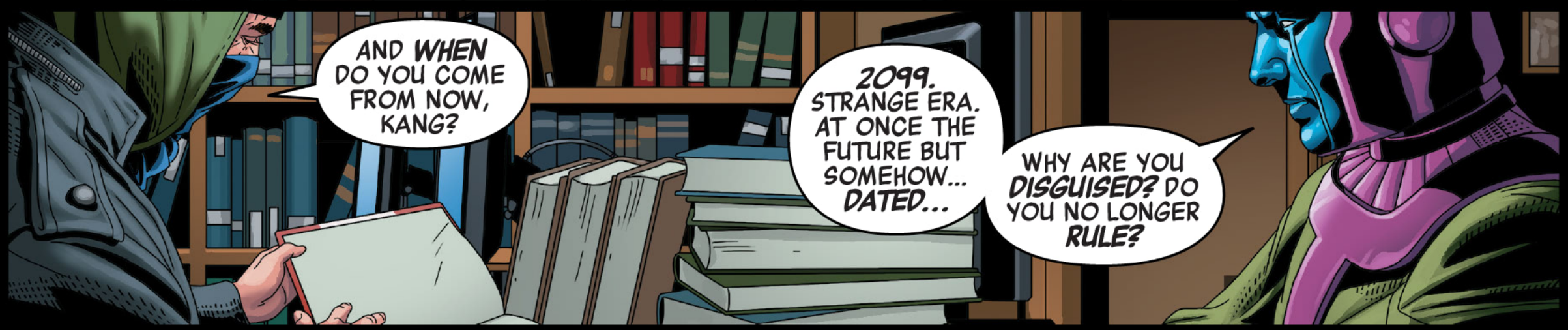

YOU MAY HAVE ANGER ISSUES, VICTORIOUS.
LET HIM TRY TO PROCURE A MATE NOW.

MDCCCXCV
THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
MDCCCCII

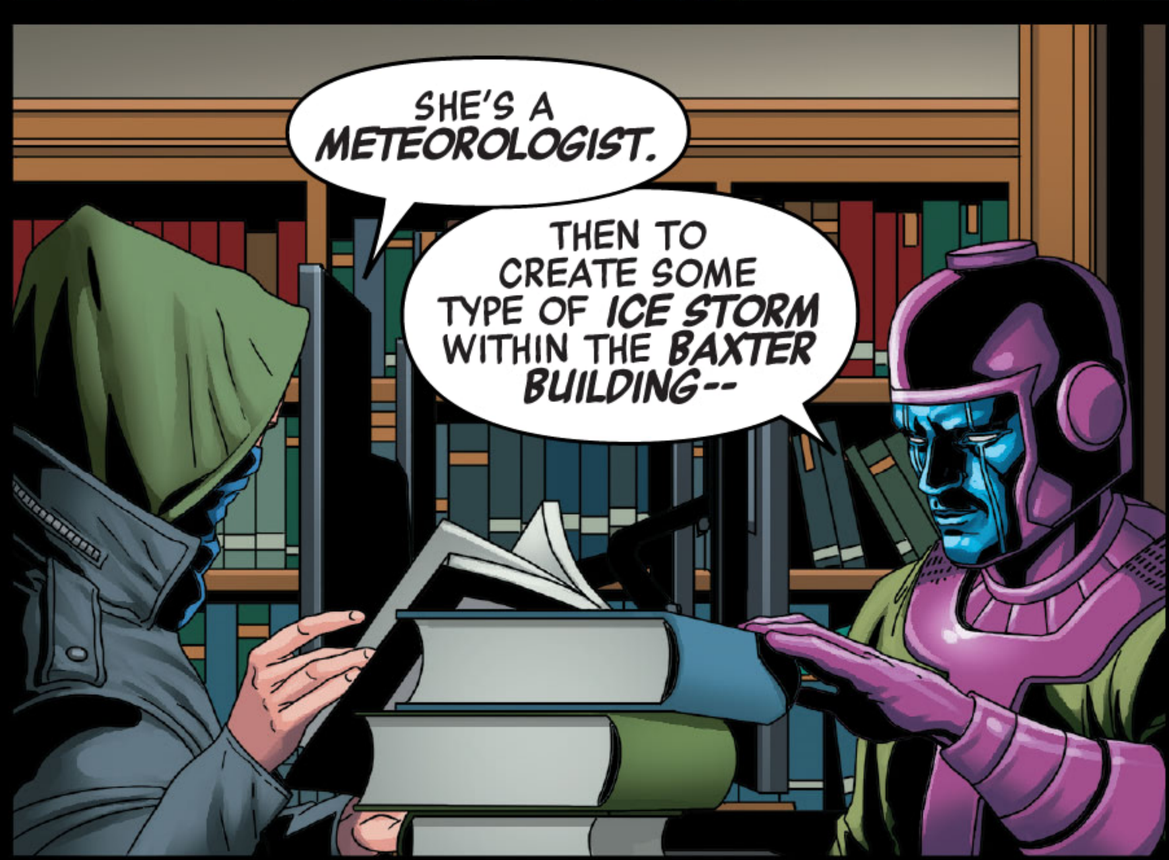
Dr. Fruzsina Markovich
"Dr. Fruzsina Markovich Pursues Cloud Seeding on NYC Islands."
Liberty Island and North Brother Island will undergo...
TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
Dr. Fruzsina Markovich publications
Title: Force of Nature: Controlling Wind & Precipitation
Author: Doctor Fruzsina Markovich
Publication Date: 2018

FORCE OF
NATURE

BVVVZEEOWWWF


AND WHEN DO YOU COME FROM NOW, KANG?
2099. STRANGE ERA. AT ONCE THE FUTURE BUT SOMEHOW... DATED...
WHY ARE YOU DISGUISED? DO YOU NO LONGER RULE?

...I WILL AGAIN.
I...SEEK A SCIENTIST...
AH. TO CREATE A DOOMSDAY WEAPON AND SEIZE CONTROL.

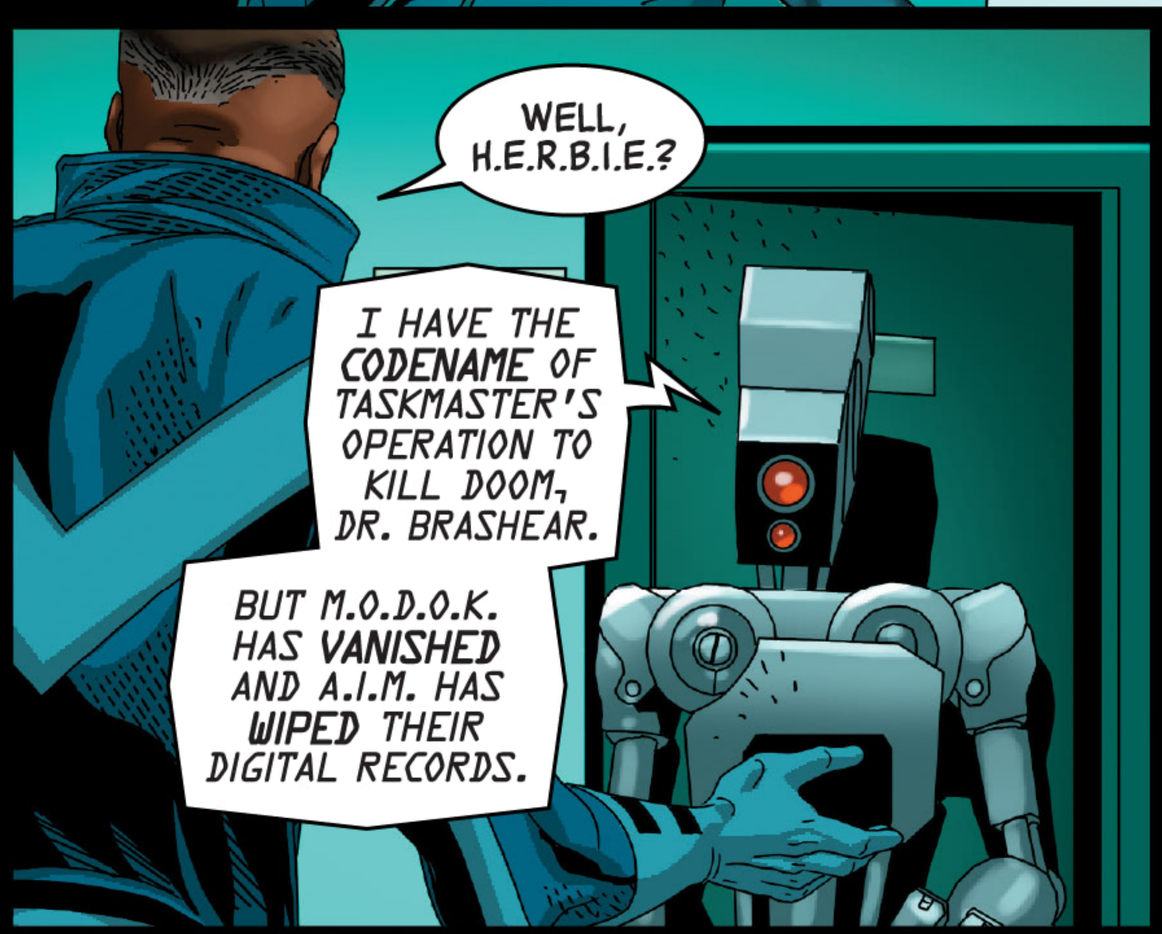

SHE'S A METEOROLOGIST.
THEN TO CREATE SOME TYPE OF ICE STORM WITHIN THE BAXTER BUILDING--

WAP
SHE IS TO BE MY WIFE!

BUT LOVE IS WEAKNESS.
WHAT DIMENSION IS THIS, DOOM? WHERE YOU'RE A SALLOW AND PURPOSELESS TRILOBITE? I SHOULD KILL YOU OUT OF PITY!
THEN MAKE THE ATTEMPT, YOU CYAN-MASKED NULLITY--
'TIS EASY TO SPILL SUCH URINOUS BLOOD AS YOURS--

BWWZEEOWWF

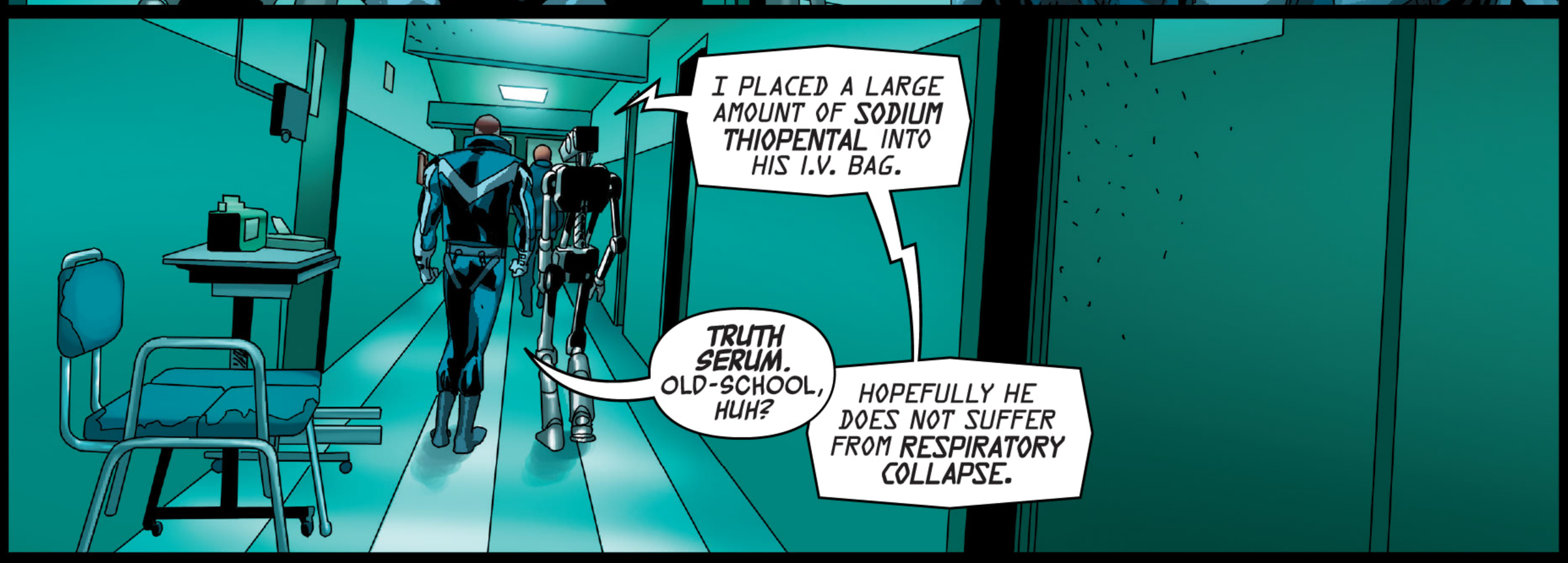
BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.


WELL, H.E.R.B.I.E.?
I HAVE THE CODENAME OF TASKMASTER'S OPERATION TO KILL DOOM, DR. BRASHEAR.
BUT M.O.D.O.K. HAS VANISHED AND A.I.M. HAS WIPED THEIR DIGITAL RECORDS.

WHAT'S THE CODENAME?
FRUZSINA.
I'VE FOUND A DR. FRUZSINA MARKOVICH HERE IN NEW YORK, A METEOROLOGIST FROM LATVERIA.
THAT'S SOMETHING.

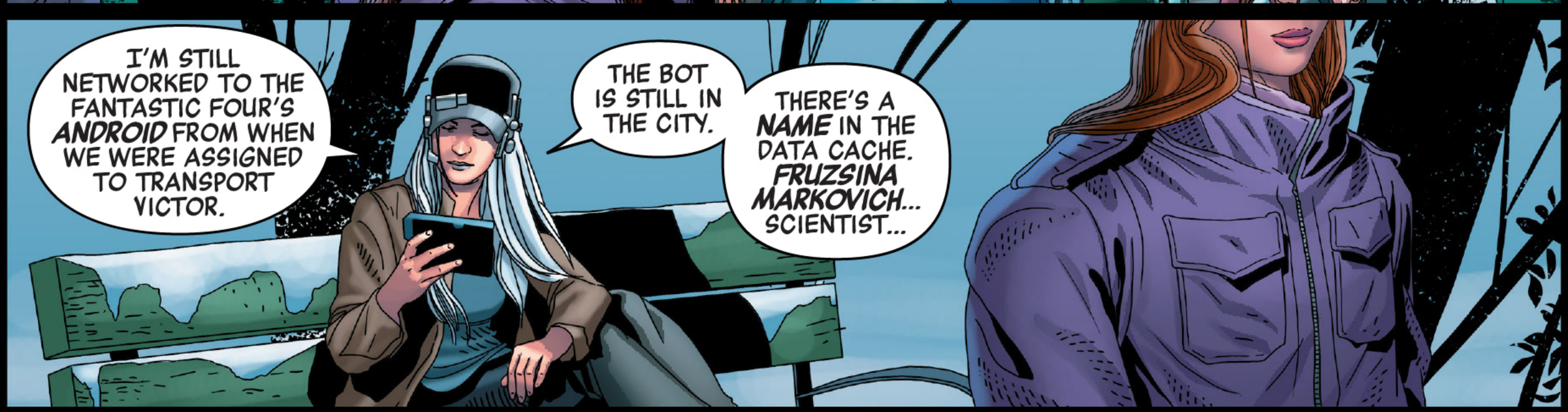
SHE'S CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS ON CITY ISLANDS.
NICE WORK.
COULD YOU PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR ME WITH MISTER FANTASTIC?

NO PROBLEM, H.E.R.B.I.E.
HOW'D YOU GET TASKMASTER TALKING?


I PLACED A LARGE AMOUNT OF SODIUM THIOPENTAL INTO HIS I.V. BAG.
TRUTH SERUM. OLD-SCHOOL, HUH?
HOPEFULLY HE DOES NOT SUFFER FROM RESPIRATORY COLLAPSE.

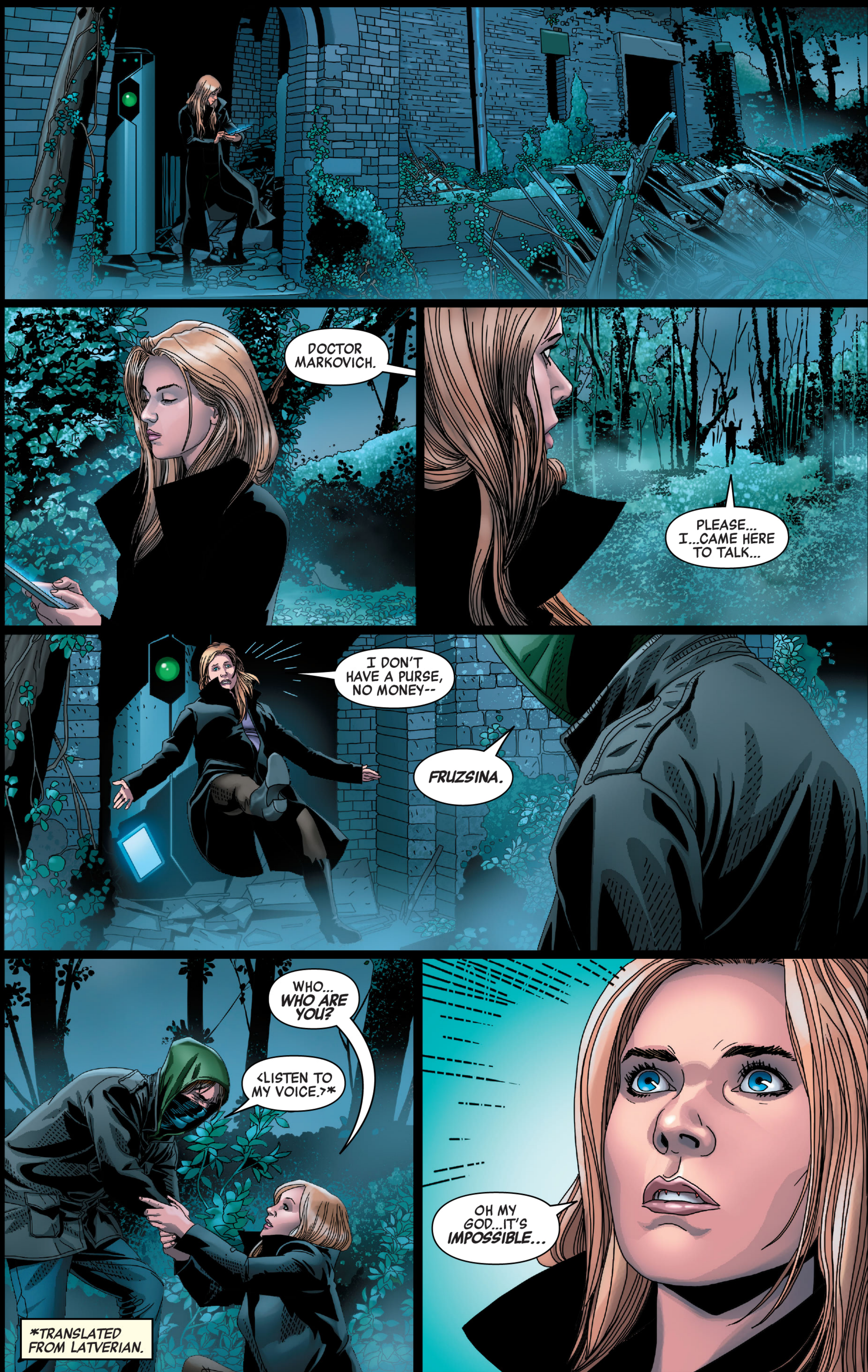
CENTRAL PARK.
ZORA. I THINK I HAVE SOMETHING.

WHAT IS IT?


I'M STILL NETWORKED TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S ANDROID FROM WHEN WE WERE ASSIGNED TO TRANSPORT VICTOR.
THE BOT IS STILL IN THE CITY.
THERE'S A NAME IN THE DATA CACHE. FRUZSINA MARKOVICH... SCIENTIST...

SHE'S CURRENTLY WORKING ON NORTH BROTHER ISLAND...SOME KIND OF WEATHER EXPERIMENTATION.

NORTH BROTHER ISLAND.


DOCTOR MARKOVICH.
PLEASE... I...CAME HERE TO TALK...
I DON'T HAVE A PURSE, NO MONEY--
FRUZSINA.
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
<LISTEN TO MY VOICE.>*
*TRANSLATED FROM LATVERIAN.
OH MY GOD...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...

LEADER...? LORD DOOM?
CORRECT.
BUT HOW--
I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD REPORTS OF MY ESCAPE.

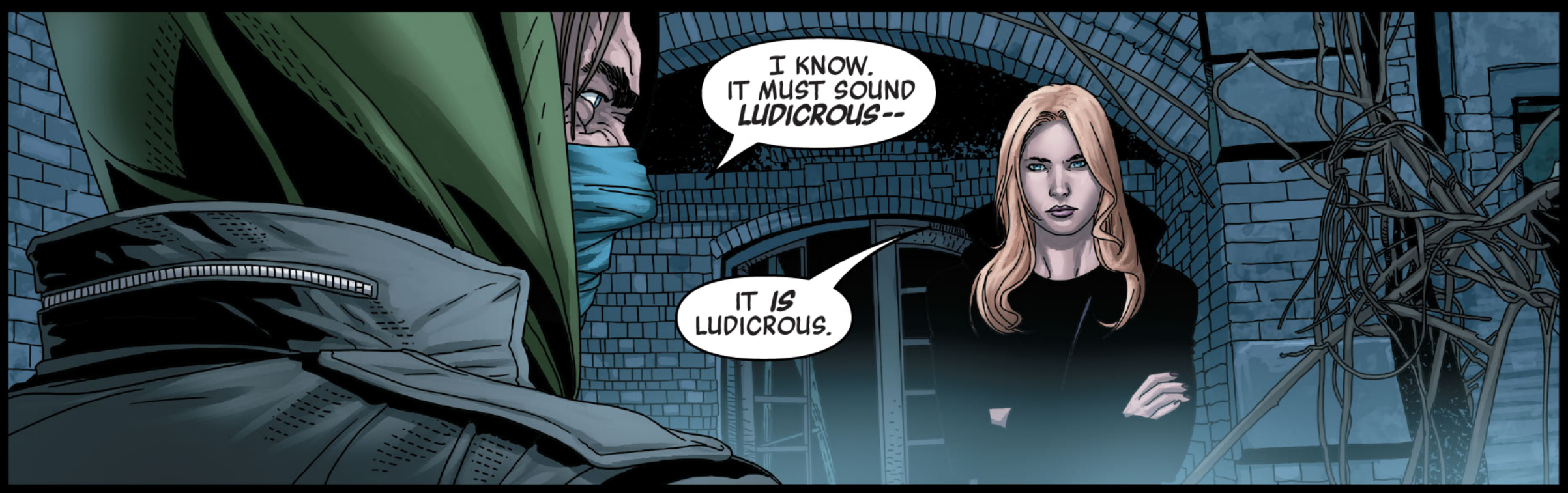
...I PLEDGE MY--
DO NOT DO THAT-- THERE IS NO NEED TO DO THAT.
DO YOU...SEEK ABETTING, SAFE HARBOR...?

I WOULD NEVER ASK THAT OF YOU.
...HAVE I... DONE SOMETHING TO OFFEND THE STATE--
NO.

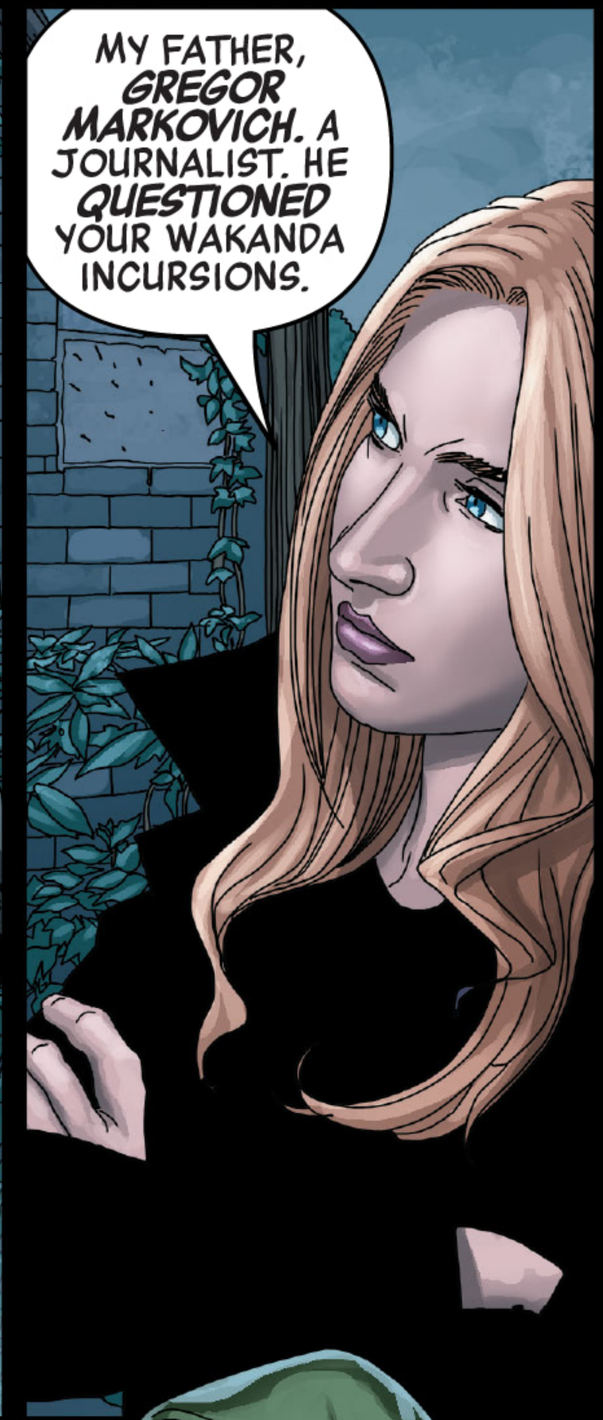
YOU'RE EXACTLY AS THE VISIONS SHOWED. HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?
I DON'T-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

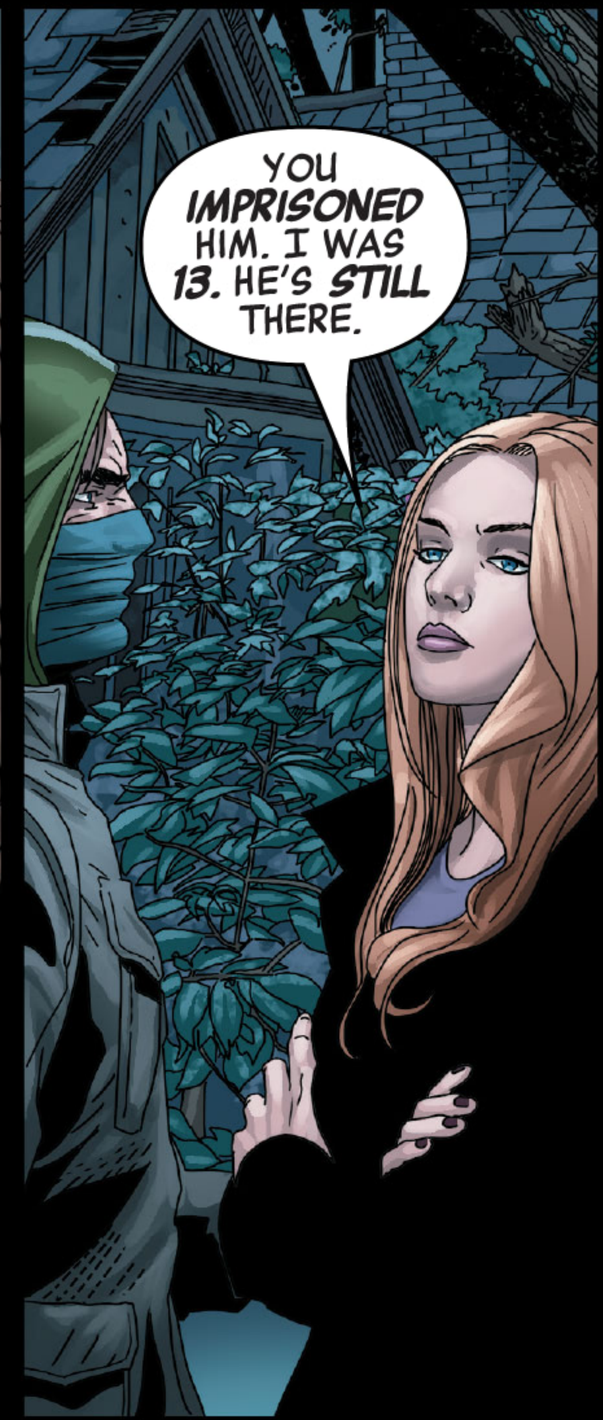
I HAVE SEEN THINGS... FROM THE FUTURE. A FUTURE THAT I COULD... I MUST...CHOOSE.
IN THIS FUTURE, WE ARE MARRIED.

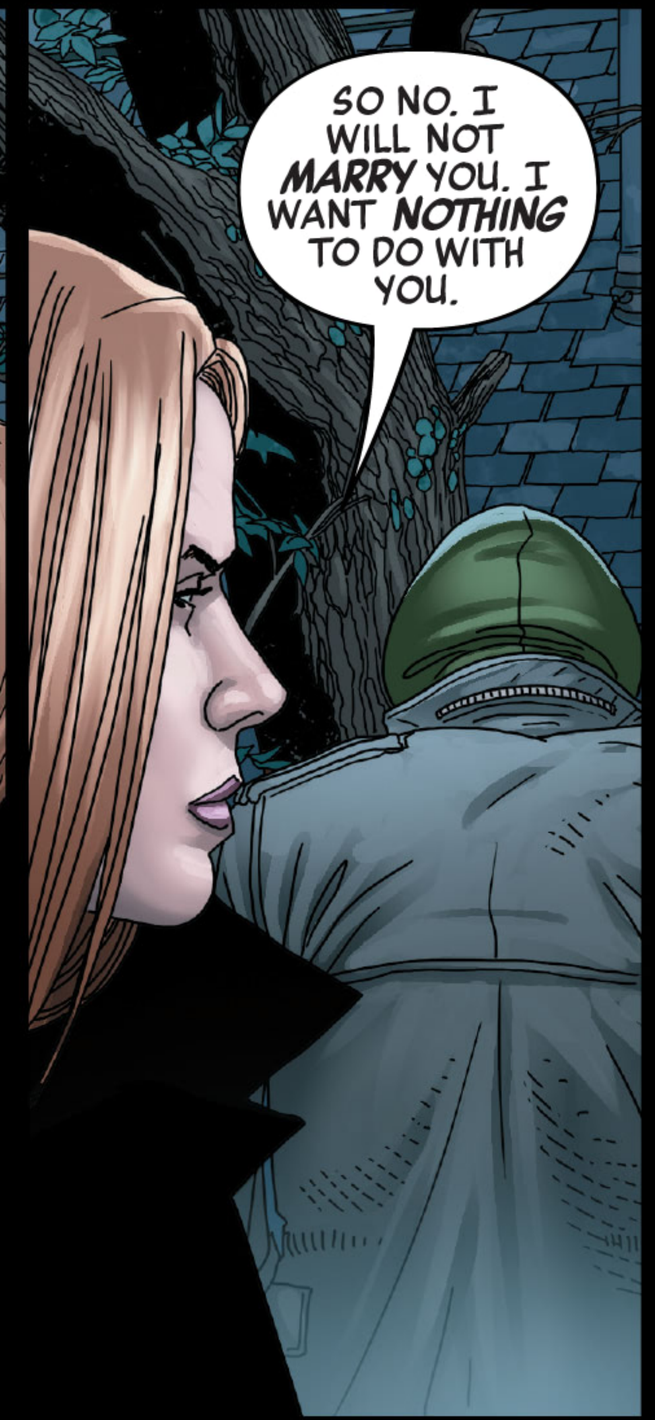
...WHAT.


I KNOW. IT MUST SOUND LUDICROUS--
IT IS LUDICROUS.

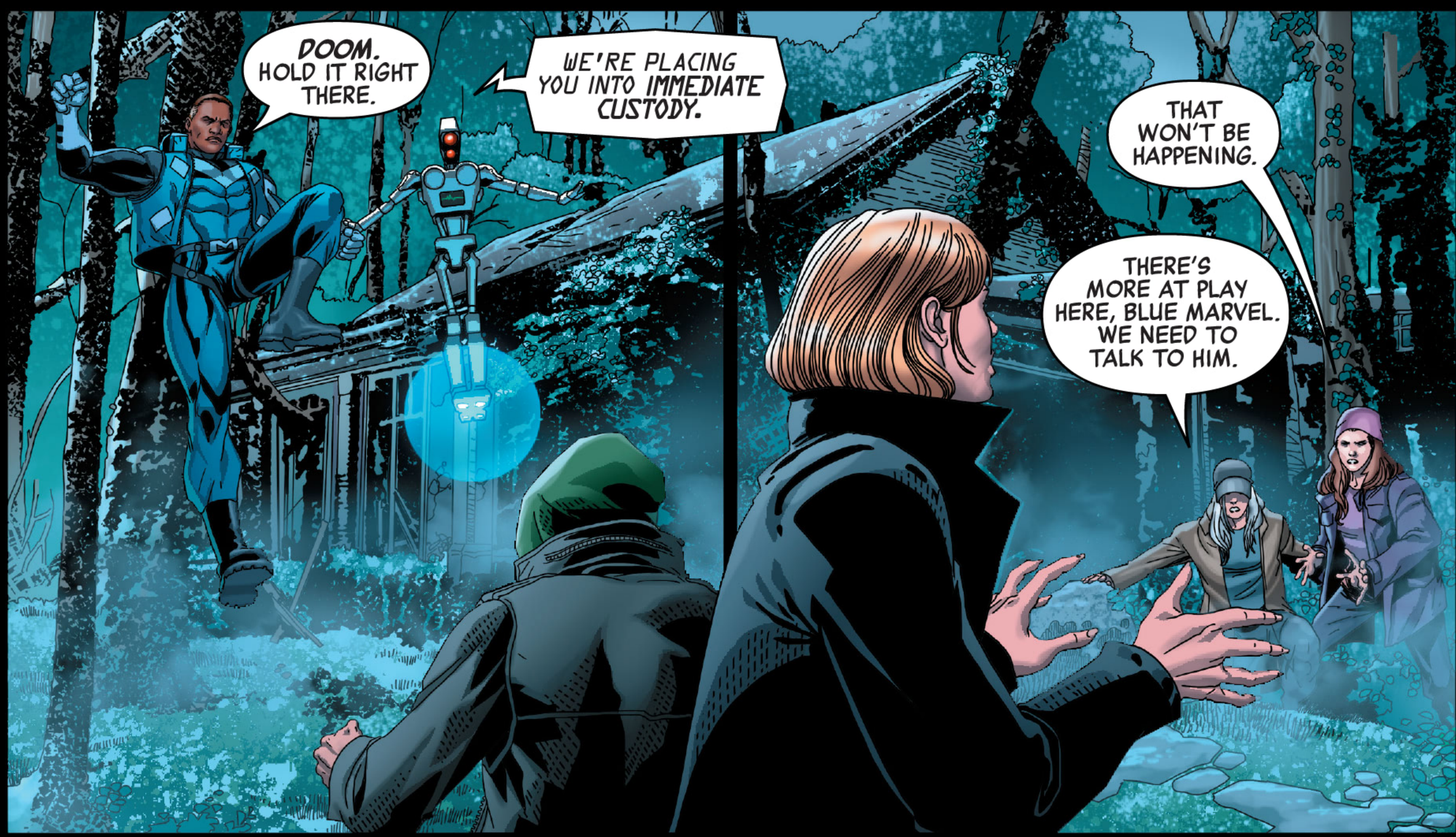
IT'S THAT IMPOSSIBLE TO YOU?
YES.
WHY? MY...FACE, MY...
YOUR TYRANNY.


MY FATHER, GREGOR MARKOVICH. A JOURNALIST. HE QUESTIONED YOUR WAKANDA INCURSIONS.


YOU IMPRISONED HIM. I WAS 13. HE'S STILL THERE.


SO NO. I WILL NOT MARRY YOU. I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

YOUR FATHER... SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. I MUST HAVE BEEN FEELING BIZARRELY HUMANE DURING HIS SENTENCING.

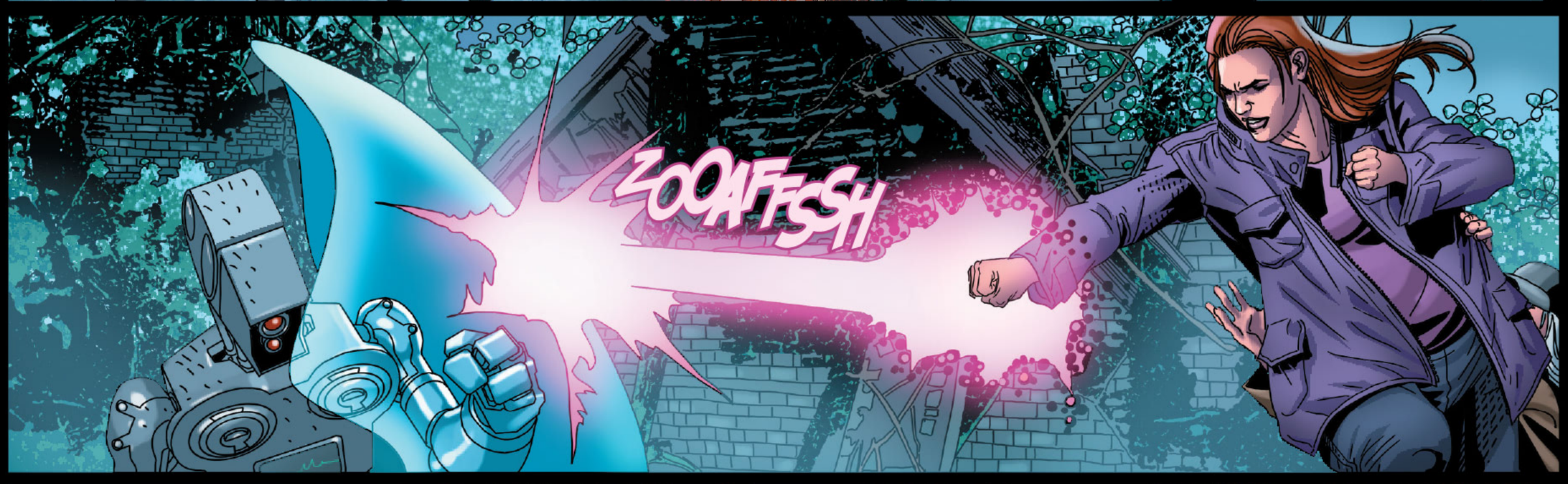

DOOM. HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.
WE'RE PLACING YOU INTO IMMEDIATE CUSTODY.
THAT WON'T BE HAPPENING.
THERE'S MORE AT PLAY HERE, BLUE MARVEL. WE NEED TO TALK TO HIM.

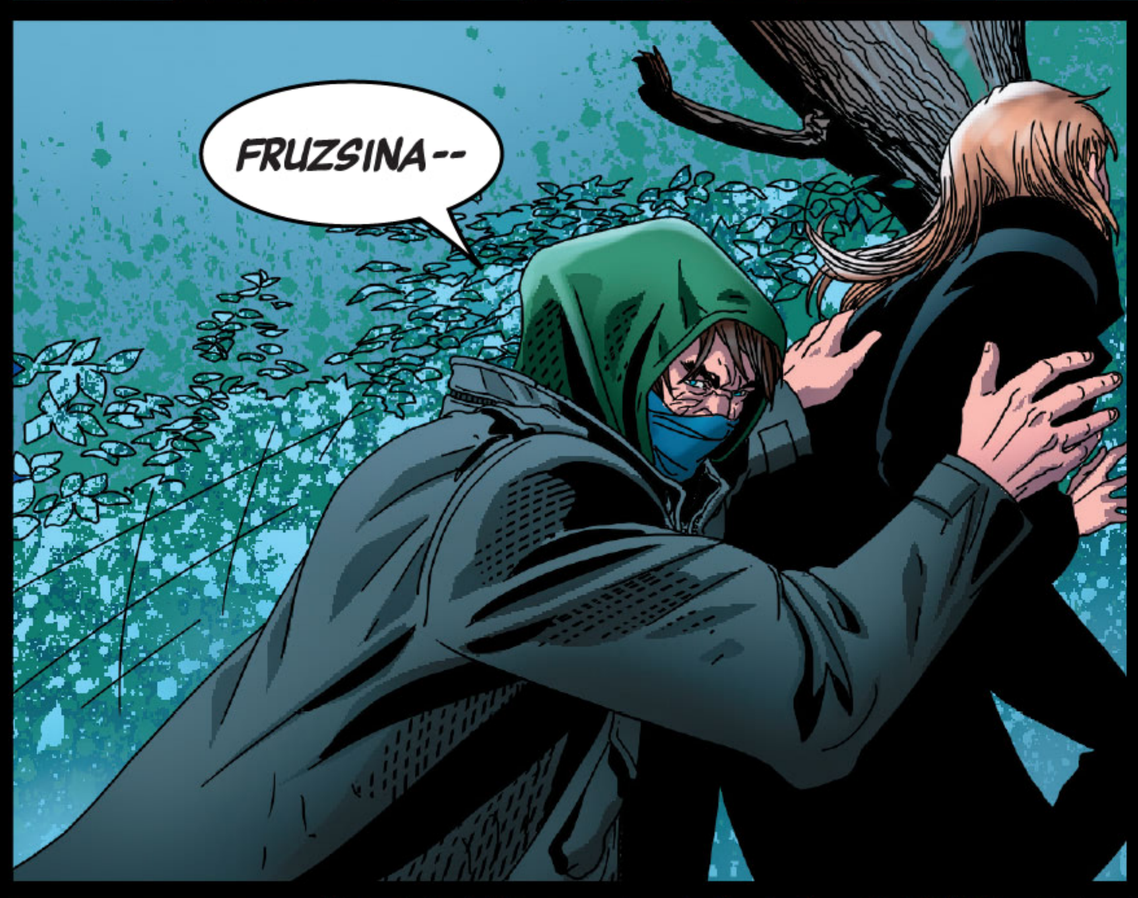
YOU CAN CHAT ONCE HE'S BACK UNDER ARREST, SABLE.
WHAT I NEED...

...IS FOR YOU TO CEASE ANTAGONIZING ME.

KAOOOZZZ
BY THE BOLTS OF BALTHAKK!
DON'T TRY IT, VICTOR!

NO! STOP!
FWATSCH

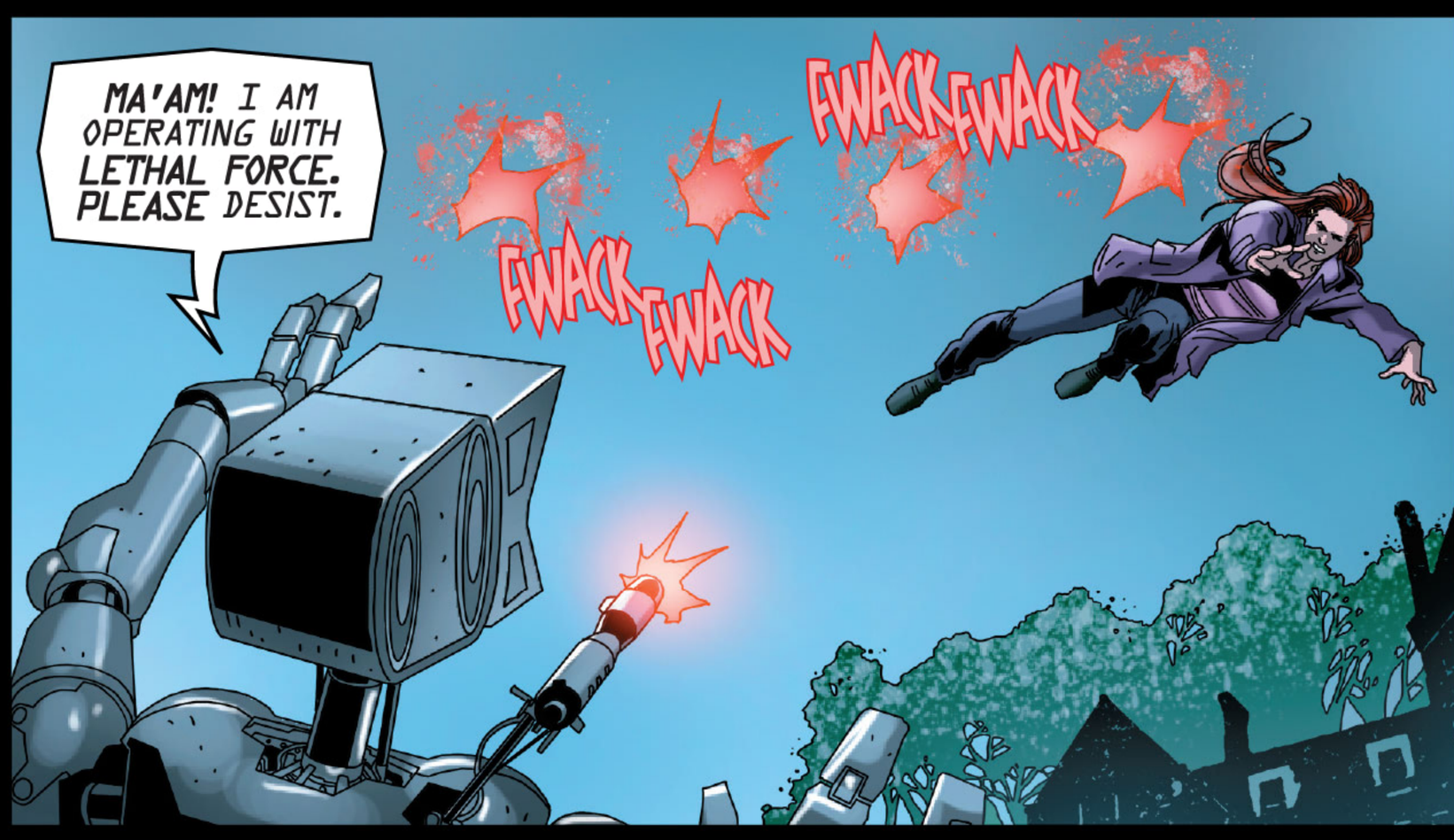

ZOOAFFSH


FRUZSINA--

ADAM, FOR THE LAST TIME--
STEP ASIDE NOW.
OKAY, THEN--

--IT'S YOUR FAULT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LISTEN.
PAKK

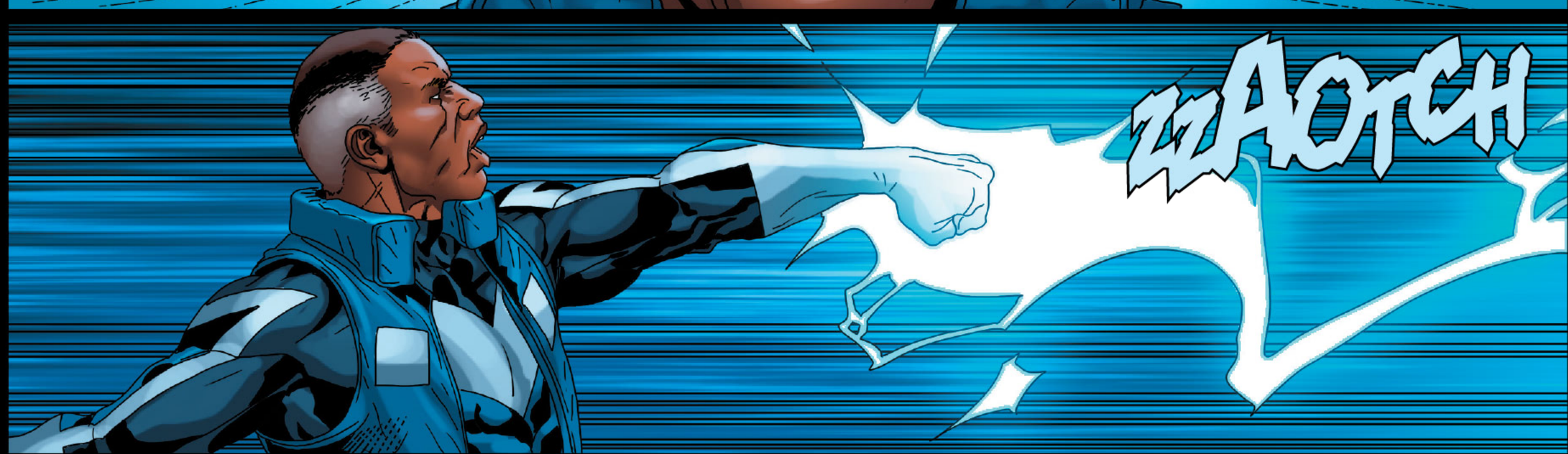
WAIT!
KANG?!
BWWZEEOWWF
DOOM, FINALLY. I GAVE THIS TO MYSELF TWO HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO GIVE IT TO YOU SO THAT YOU'LL SAVE THE WORLD...
...WHICH APPARENTLY INVOLVES COMPLETELY DEMILITARIZING IT, THUS MAKING IT EASY TO CONQUER.


MA'AM! I AM OPERATING WITH LETHAL FORCE. PLEASE DESIST.
FWACK FWACK
FWACK FWACK

AH. A CUSTODIAL ROBOT.

THIS PRESENT ERA IS DELIGHTFULLY QUAINT.
SHAKOOWMM

H.E.R.B.I.E.!


ZZAOTCH

POK-KAAAWWWWMMMM
DYAAA--

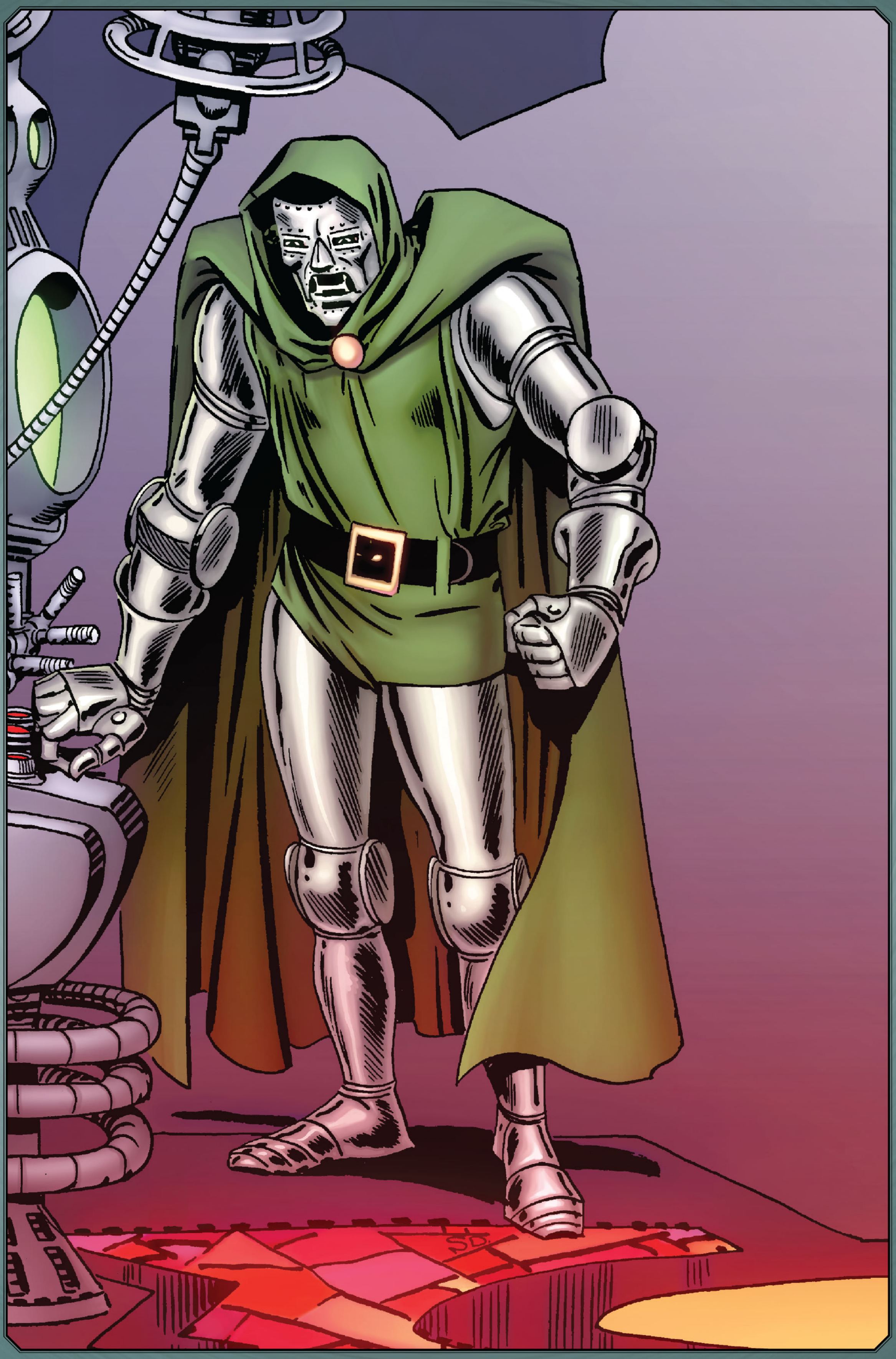
HEYYUUH!
DEP-PAOOSSFFHHSSH
AND THAT IS THAT.
NOT QUITE.
KLNK
KAFFF

AMY CHEN. ONE OF YOUR SYMKARIAN WILD PACK. I SEE.
SO IT WAS YOUR HOMELAND THAT DID THIS TO ME. DESTROYED THE ANTLION, MURDERED THOUSANDS-- ALL TO INSTALL A PUPPET KING NOW WELCOMED BY THE WORLD.
THE NEW LATVERIA IS A SYMKARIAN LATVERIA.
I HAD NO PART IN THIS--
KIIIK
NOOOO!
BVVVZEEOWWWF
BY THE EYE OF PHOEBUS, WAS I JUST KILLED?
...MASTER...?
...RICHARDS...HE NEEDS YOU, DOOM. THE BLACK HOLE IS COLLAPSING...

LET THE MOON DIE. LET RICHARDS BE SUBSUMED BY HIS FOLLY.
AND VICTORIOUS... SUCH IRONY IN YOUR NAME. YOU ARE DEFEAT. I NEED A NEW SLAVE... ONE WHO DOESN'T COUGH UP MY THRONE SO EASILY.
RETURN HOME AT ONCE. PREPARE FOR MY HOMECOMING. I AM TAKING BACK WHAT'S MINE AND SPILLING USURPER BLOOD.
I AM-- AND ALWAYS WILL BE--THE DOOM OF THIS WORLD, AND IT WILL ALWAYS-- ALWAYS-- BOW BEFORE ME.
TO BE CONTINUED...

Arthur Adams

1 Variant



Steve Ditko & Morry Hollowell

1 Hidden Gem Variant

Simone Bianchi

1 Variant

Cliff Chiang
1 Mary Jane Variant

Larry Stroman, Mark Morales & Jason Keith

2 2099 Variant

Patch Zircher & Morry Hollowell

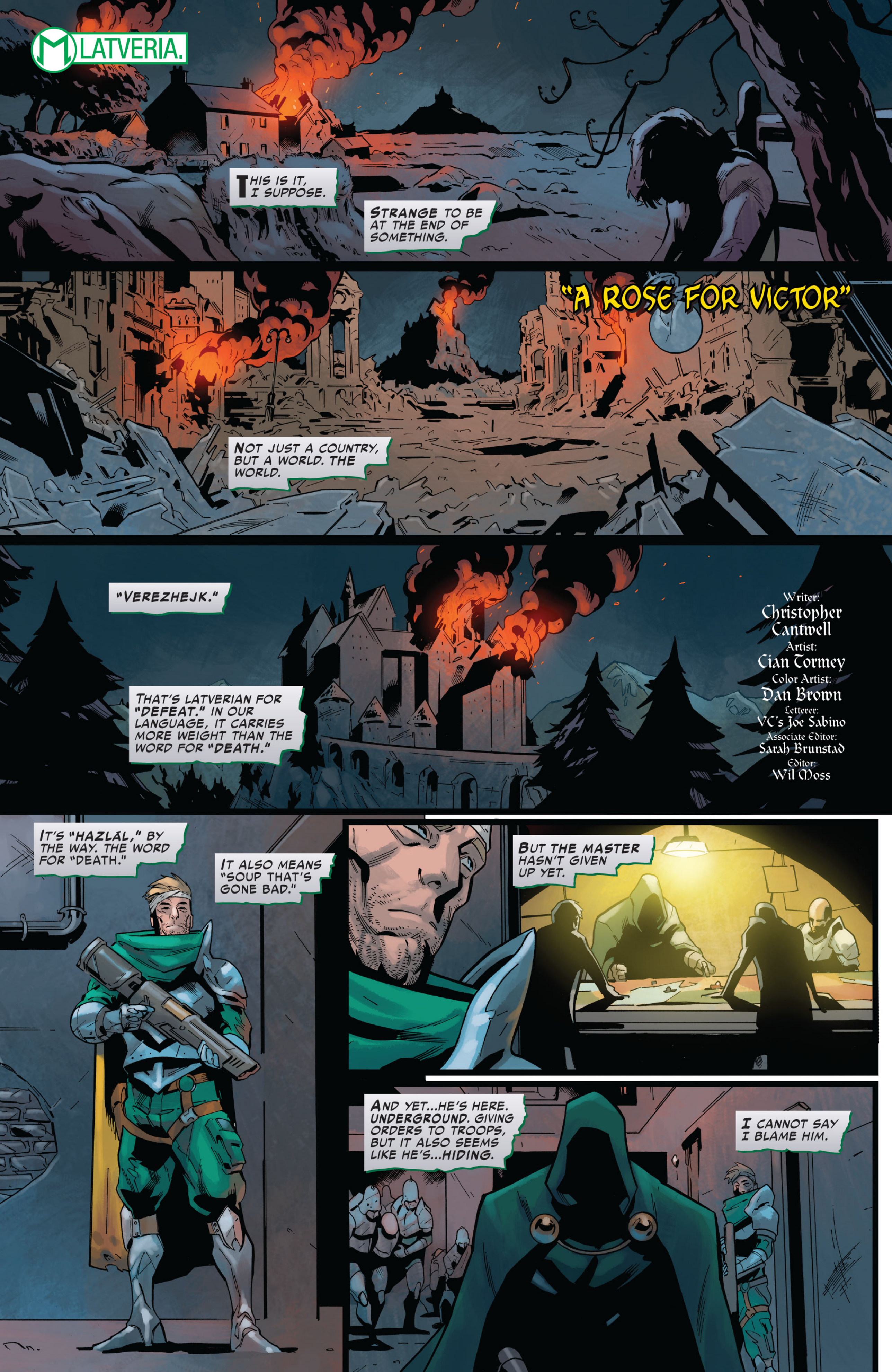
3 2020 Variant

Will Sliney & **Jason Keith**

4 *Marvels X* Variant

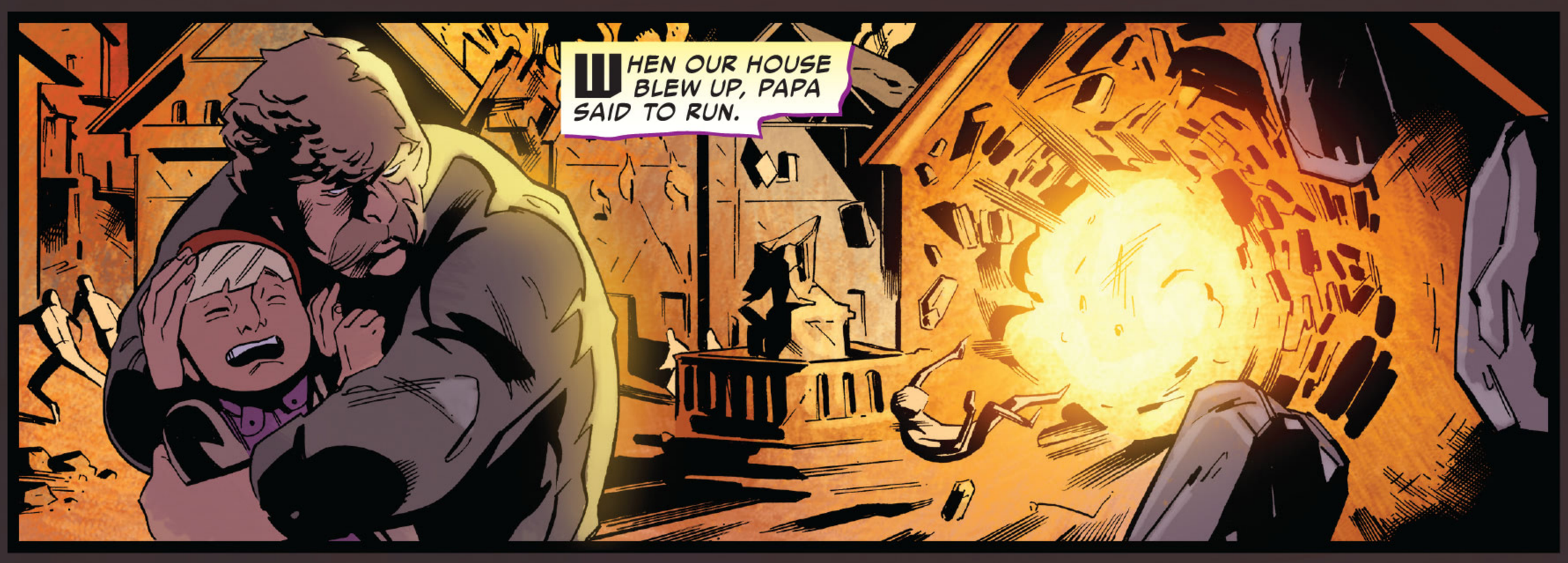
Belén Ortega & Paul Mounts

5 Gwen Stacy Variant

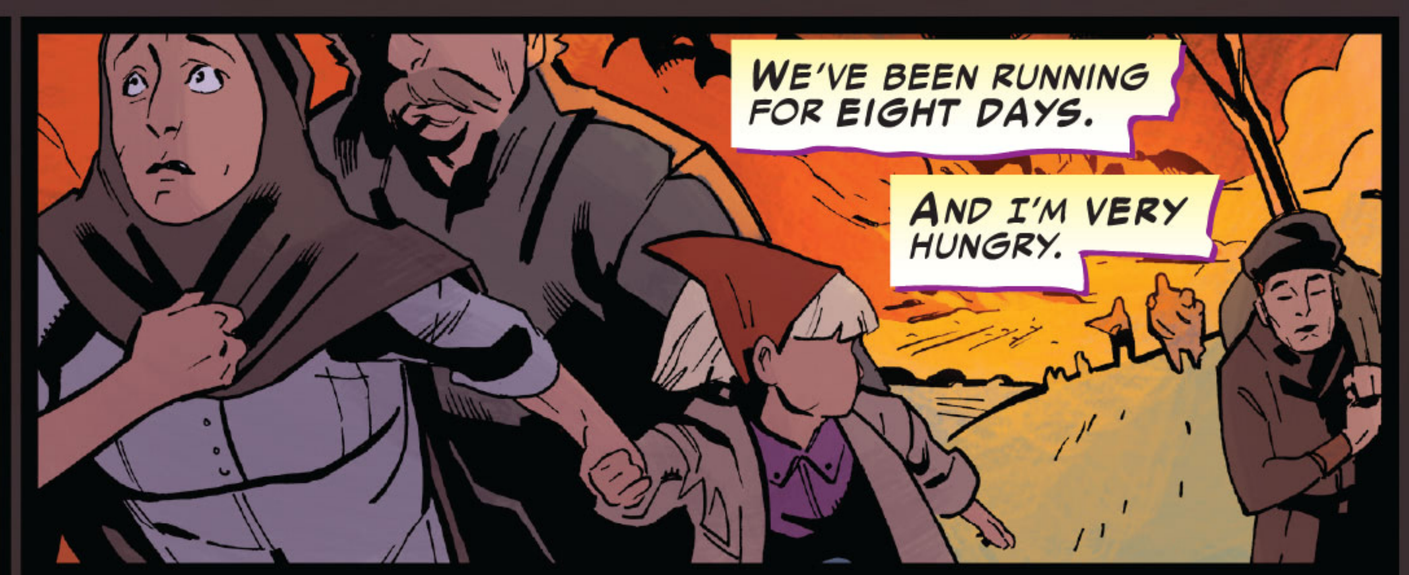

LATVERIA.
THIS IS IT, I SUPPOSE.
STRANGE TO BE AT THE END OF SOMETHING.
"A ROSE FOR VICTOR"
NOT JUST A COUNTRY, BUT A WORLD. THE WORLD.
"VEREZHEJK."
THAT'S LATVERIAN FOR "DEFEAT." IN OUR LANGUAGE, IT CARRIES MORE WEIGHT THAN THE WORD FOR "DEATH."
Writer: Christopher Cantwell
Artist: Cian Tormey
Color Artist: Dan Brown
Letterer: VC's Joe Sabino
Associate Editor: Sarah Brunstad
Editor: Wil Moss
IT'S "HAZLÁL," BY THE WAY. THE WORD FOR "DEATH."
IT ALSO MEANS "SOUP THAT'S GONE BAD."
BUT THE MASTER HASN'T GIVEN UP YET.
AND YET...HE'S HERE. UNDERGROUND. GIVING ORDERS TO TROOPS, BUT IT ALSO SEEMS LIKE HE'S...HIDING.
I CANNOT SAY I BLAME HIM.

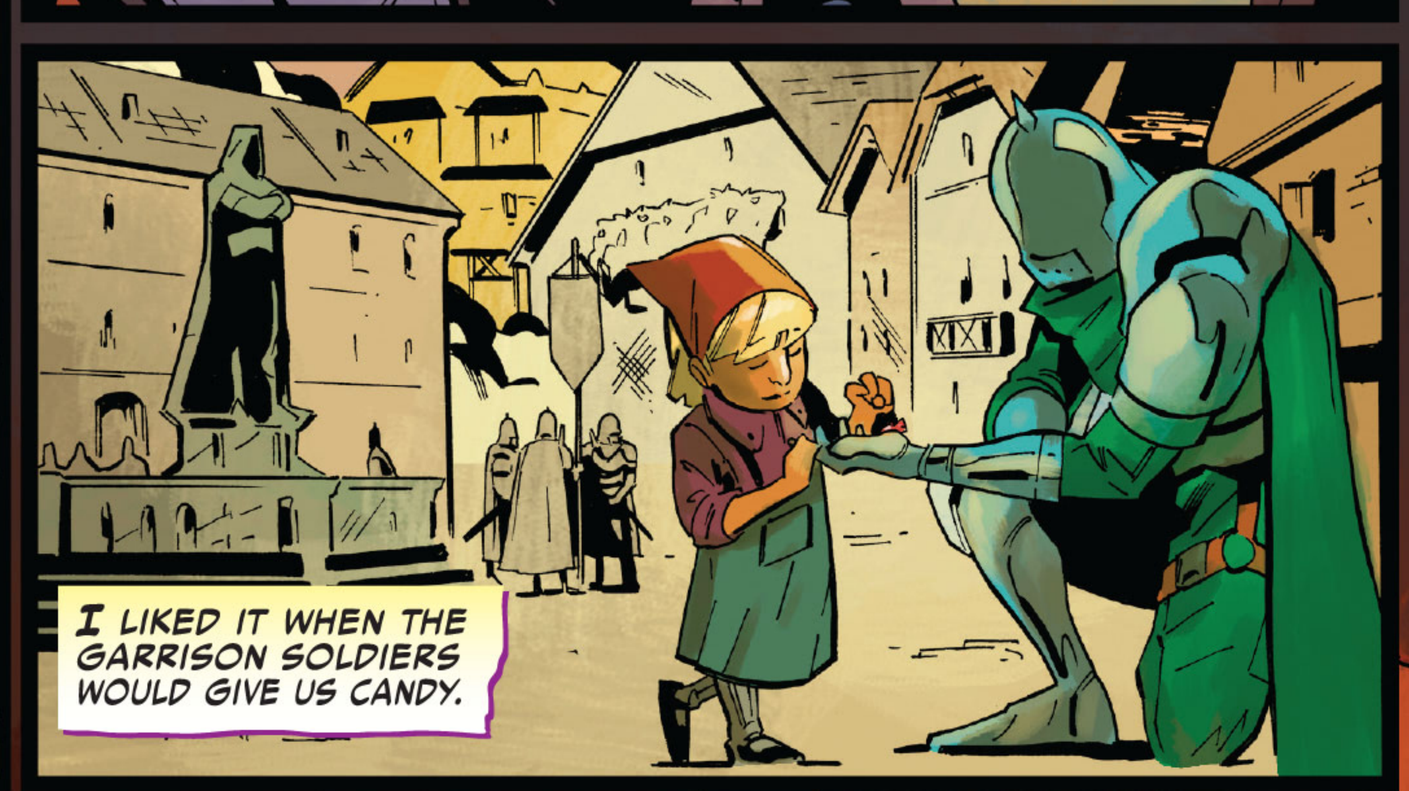
ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO, HE HAD THE ONE CALLED "GALACTUS" IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.*
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMETHING THE SIZE OF A MOUNTAIN FUSED INTO AN ACTUAL MOUNTAIN?
*SEE FANTASTIC FOUR (2018) #6-9. --WIL
Wanted
By order of the Latverian Government
Reed Richa
Wanted
By order of the Latverian Government
Sue Richards
Wanted
By order of the Latverian Government
Johnny Storm
Wanted
order of the Latverian Government
Ben Grimm
THEN THE CORNY AMERICANS WITH POWERS GOT INVOLVED AGAIN AND...WELL, YOU KNOW.
IT'S LAW HERE THAT SPEAKING THE NAME "RICHARDS" WILL GET YOU EXECUTED.
I WAS FRIGHTENED TO EVEN SAY IT IN MY MIND JUST NOW.
GOOD GOD...
...DID HE HEAR ME?
THE MOST BRILLIANT MIND ON EARTH--ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL SORCERERS IN THE UNIVERSE...

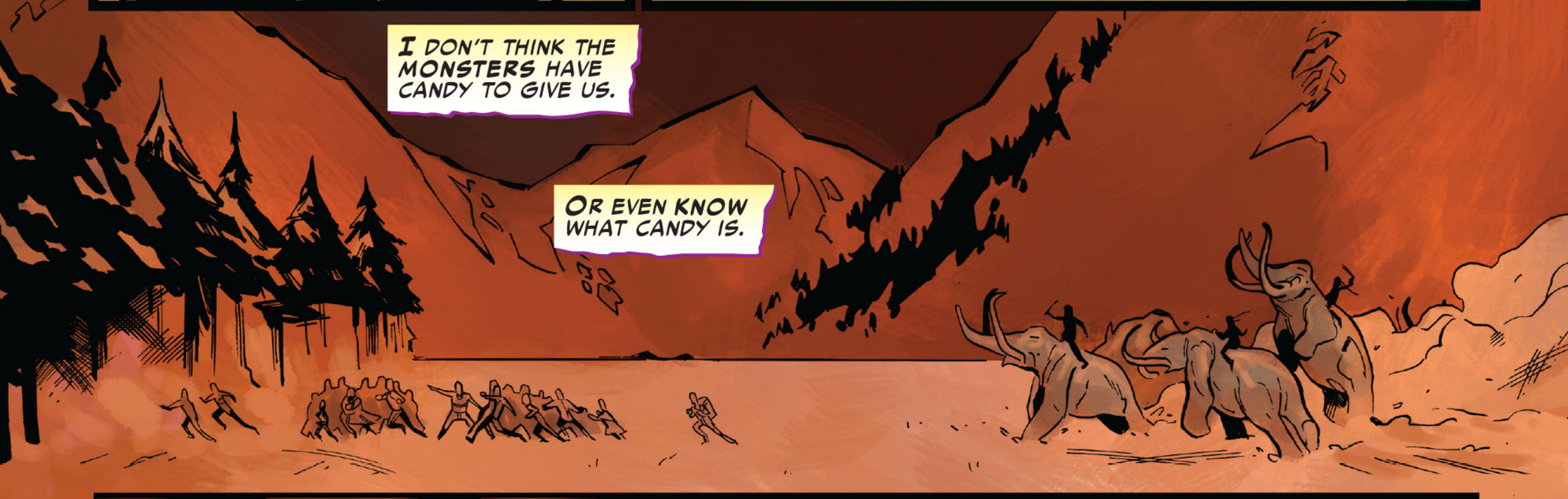
...WAS HUMILIATED ON LIVE TELEVISION, FORCIBLY UNMASKED, HIDEOUS SCARS LAID BARE.
WE WERE FORCED TO REMEMBER--AND SO WAS HE--
--THAT HE'S A MAN.
NOT A GOD.
VEREZHEJK
Doom
THIS IS ALL HE HAS LEFT OF THE WORLD-EATER'S POWER.
A FEW MOLECULES OF COSMIC FIRE.
AND IT DOESN'T DO MUCH WHEN YOU'RE BEING OVERRUN BY ELVES.


WHEN OUR HOUSE BLEW UP, PAPA SAID TO RUN.

THE WHOLE VILLAGE RAN.


WE'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR EIGHT DAYS.
AND I'M VERY HUNGRY.

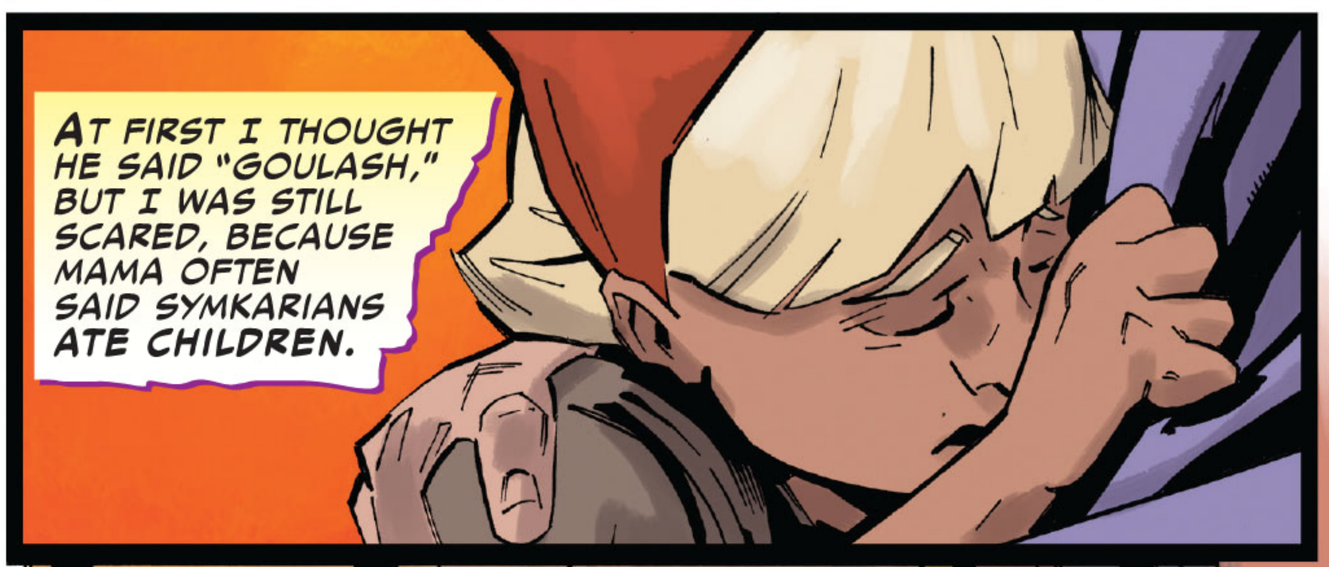

I LIKED IT WHEN THE GARRISON SOLDIERS WOULD GIVE US CANDY.


I DON'T THINK THE MONSTERS HAVE CANDY TO GIVE US.
OR EVEN KNOW WHAT CANDY IS.

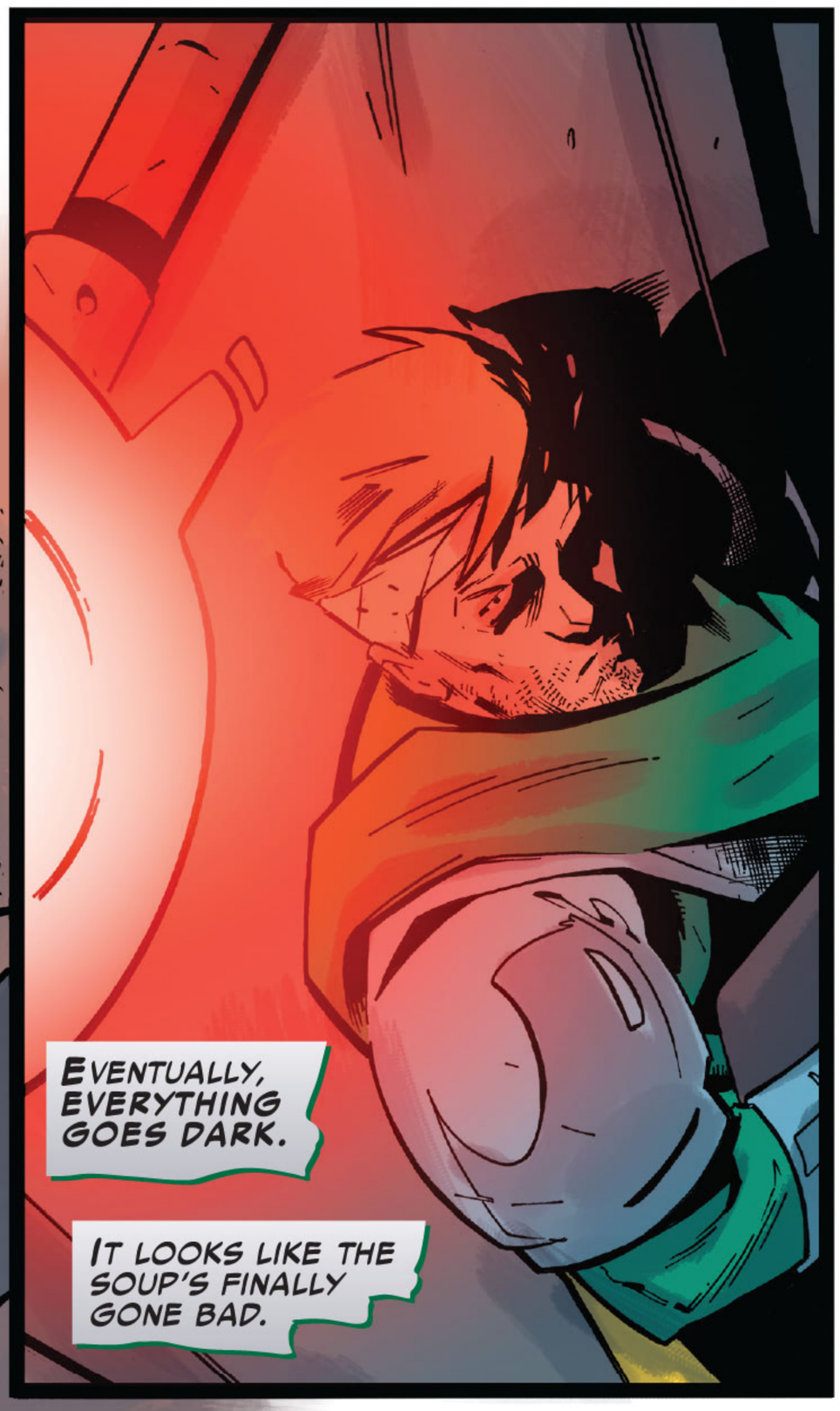
SOMETIMES I THINK THEY MIGHT BE NICER IF THEY JUST ATE SOME CHOCOLATES.

THE MASTER DOESN'T TAKE IT WELL WHEN HE LEARNS AN ENTIRE SQUADRON OF DOOMBOTS HAS BEEN DESTROYED ON THE EASTERN LINE.
IT'S AN INSULT TO INJURY, OF COURSE, THAT THEY LOOK JUST LIKE HIM.
Eatyeria
OUR LORD GOES FOR BROKE.
HE ORDERS A SPECIAL FORCES UNIT WE CAN'T SPARE TO SEARCH FOR VICTORIOUS--HIS PERSONAL HERALD AND CHIEF WARRIOR--WHO'S BEEN LOST BEHIND ENEMY LINES FOR DAYS.
IT REMINDS ME OF THAT AMERICAN WAR MOVIE. WHAT'S IT CALLED?
THE ONE WITH MATTHEW DAMON.
HE RETREATS AGAIN TO STUDY ANCIENT NORSE TEXTS, LOOKING FOR CLUES.
Codex Regius
BUT IT'S NO USE...
...IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE MONSTERS KILL US ALL.

SOME SAY OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO CROSS THE SOUTHERN BORDER INTO SYMKARIA.
BUT PAPA SAYS SYMKARIAN GULAGS ARE A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH.

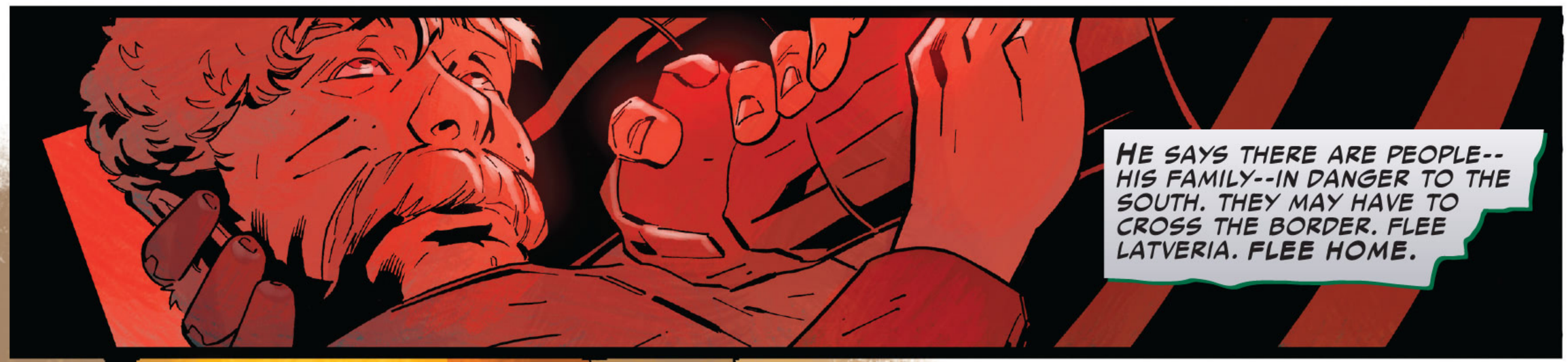

AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE SAID "GOULASH," BUT I WAS STILL SCARED, BECAUSE MAMA OFTEN SAID SYMKARIANS ATE CHILDREN.

PAPA SAYS HE WILL TRY TO GET HELP. BEFORE HE GOES, I TRY TO REMEMBER HIS FACE AS HARD AS I CAN.


EVENTUALLY, EVERYTHING GOES DARK.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE SOUP'S FINALLY GONE BAD.

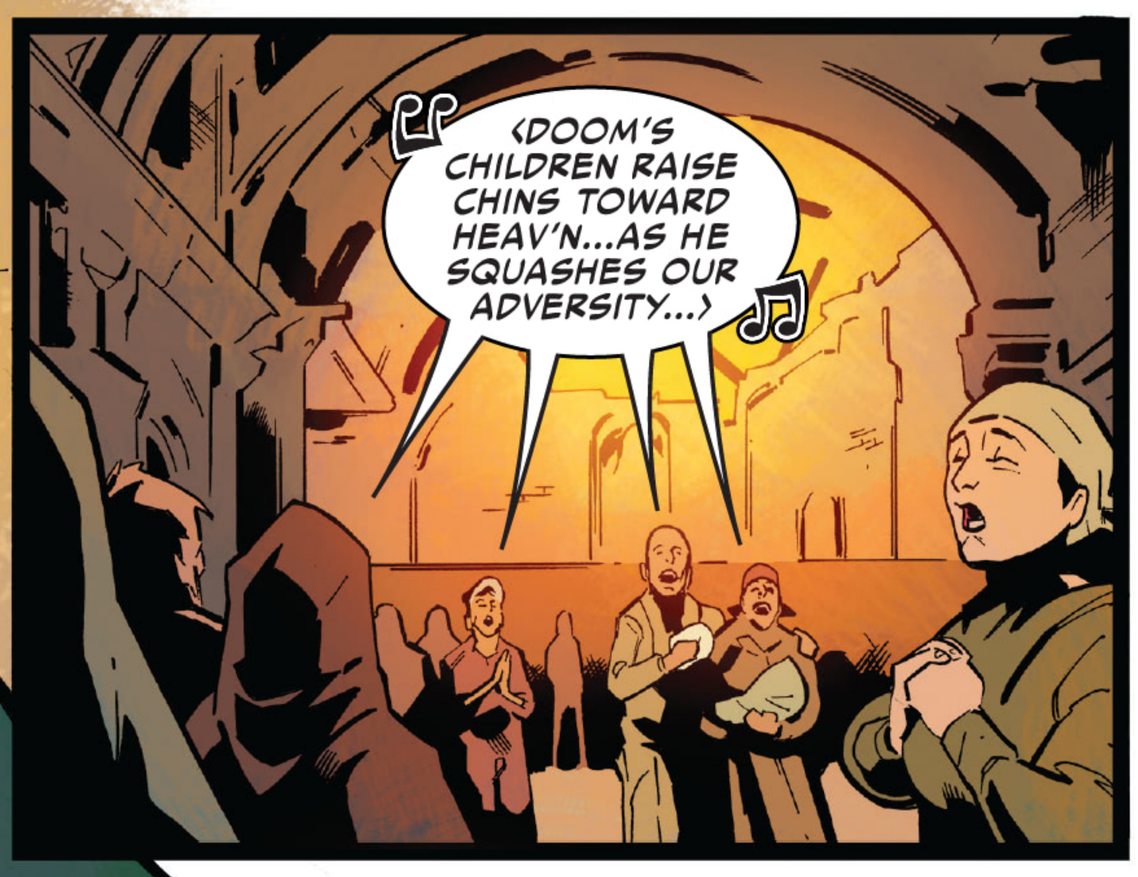
‹ALL HAIL STRONG LATVERIA... GLORY SHINES ON THEE... DOOM'S CHILDREN RAISE CHINS TOWARD HEAV'N... AS HE QUASHES OUR ADVERSITY...›*
BUT PERHAPS PATRIOTISM NEVER DIES.
*TRANSLATED FROM LATVERIAN.

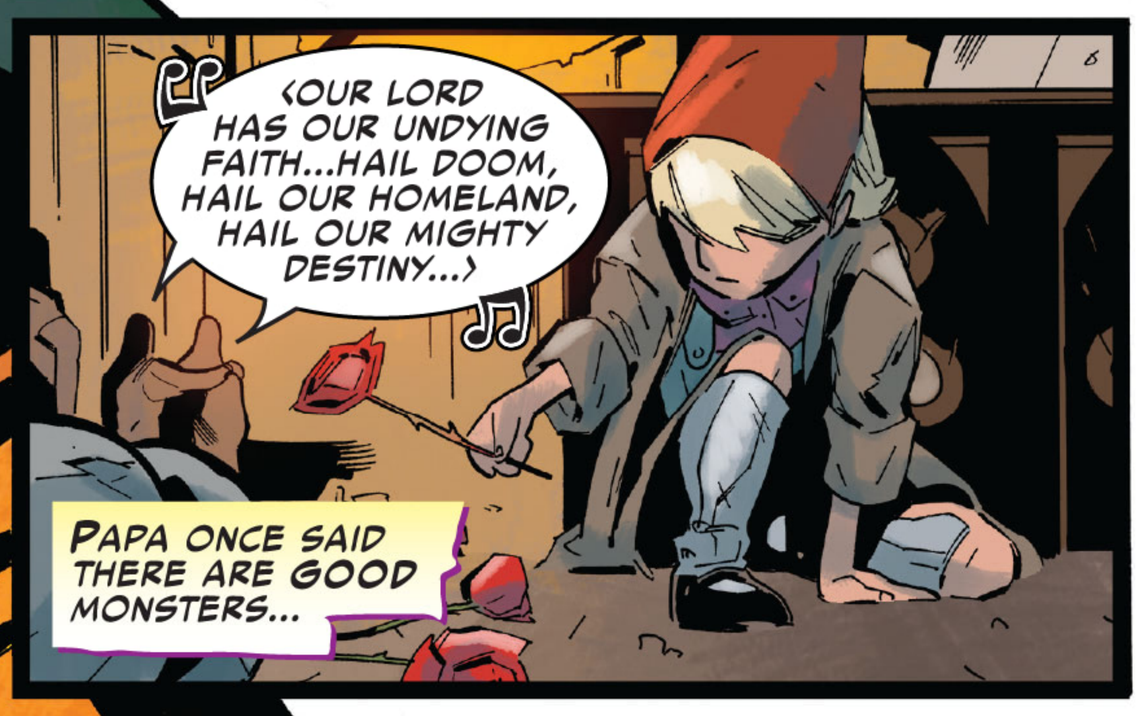
‹OUR LORD HAS OUR UNDYING FAITH...HAIL DOOM, HAIL OUR HOMELAND, HAIL OUR MIGHTY DESTINY...›
EVEN IN THE FACE OF VEREZHEJK.



IN THAT MOMENT, HE DECIDES.

"<ALL HAIL STRONG LATVERIA...GLORY SHINES ON THEE...>"





WHEN OUR LORD ARRIVES...
...I FIRST THINK THE ÉJSZASZKA-ÖRDJÖG--THE NIGHT DEVIL--HAS FINALLY COME TO TAKE US TO HELL.
BUT IT'S A GOOD MONSTER, COME TO MAKE THE BAD MONSTERS GO AWAY.
"BAD MONSTERS, BAD MONSTERS!" I SCREAM AS HE KILLS THEM.
I HAVEN'T CHEERED THIS MUCH SINCE THE LATVERIAN FOOTBALL TEAM WAS IMPRISONED FOR TREASON AGAINST THE STATE!

IT'S SAID THE MASTER KILLED OVER A THOUSAND THAT DAY.
AND ON THAT DAY, HE RESTED.
I BELIEVE IN OUR GOD.
MY PAPA GAVE HIS LIFE FOR OUR GOD.
I WOULD GLADLY GIVE MY LIFE FOR OUR GOD TOO.

<KNEEL BEFORE YOUR LEADER!>
<KNEEL, PEASANT!>
I AM GRATEFUL FOR OUR GOD.
HE WILL ALWAYS PROTECT US.
HE IS GYÖZJELEM.
Codex Regius
HE IS VICTORY.
END.

"A smart series that mixes super-heroics and a political mystery."
— Graphic Policy

VICTOR VON DOOM
IS AT A CROSSROADS.

WRESTLING WITH VISIONS of an entirely different life – a better future – the lord of Latveria offers mankind a stark warning about the folly of a trillion-dollar global effort to create the first artificial black hole. But when a catastrophic act of terrorism kills thousands, the prime suspect is...Doom! Left with no homeland, no armies, no allies – indeed, nothing at all – will Doctor Doom's reign come to an abrupt end? Forced to seek out an old "frenemy" for help, Victor will go through hell – literally! And his old foe Mephisto is waiting for him there! Doom will have to battle Taskmaster, M.O.D.O.K., the Blue Marvel and more – but can he clear his accursed name?

T+

COLLECTING ***DOCTOR DOOM #1-5*** – BY CHRISTOPHER CANTWELL, SALVADOR LARROCA AND GURU-eFX – PLUS MATERIAL FROM ***WAR OF THE REALMS: WAR SCROLLS #3***.

MARVEL

ZONE